



# A Guide to Tracing Your Galway Ancestors

# **A Guide to Tracing Your Galway Ancestors**

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## ***Dedication***

The memory of Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh (alias Duald MacFirbis) c. 1600-71, who, as a genealogist in particular, was the last traditionally-trained member of that hereditary learned class, which played such an important part in recording our past. Galway, during the period leading up to the Cromwellian siege of 1651-2, was according to Nollaig Ó Muraíle, the scene of an astounding feat of scholarship – the compilation by Dubhaltach of his monumental *Leabhar Genealach* or ‘Book of Genealogies’, which deserves to be placed on a par with such works as *Annála Ríoghachta Éireann* (the ‘Annals of the Four Masters’).

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National Library of Ireland.

Special Collections and Archives Services, Leabharlann James Hardiman, NUI Galway.

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## *Abbreviations Used*

|            |                                                                  |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| b.         | birth/born                                                       |
| bapt.      | Baptism                                                          |
| BL         | British Library                                                  |
| c.         | circa                                                            |
| Co.        | County                                                           |
| CoI        | Church of Ireland                                                |
| CDB        | Congested Districts Boards                                       |
| d.         | death/died                                                       |
| DED        | District Electoral Division                                      |
| ed.        | editor/edited (by)                                               |
| EGFHS      | East Galway Family History Society                               |
| FHS        | Family History Society                                           |
| GCCA       | Galway County Council Archives                                   |
| GCL        | Galway County Libraries                                          |
| GFHSW      | Galway Family History Society West Ltd.                          |
| GM         | <i>Gort Inse Guaire</i> . See Chapter 12                         |
| GMIT       | Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology                              |
| GO         | Genealogical Office                                              |
| GRO        | General Register Office                                          |
| IGP        | Irish Genealogical Project                                       |
| IMC        | Irish Manuscripts Commission                                     |
| Ir. Anc.   | <i>Irish Ancestor</i>                                            |
| Ir. Gen.   | <i>Irish Genealogist</i>                                         |
| J. or Jnl. | Journal                                                          |
| JAPMD      | Journal of Association for Preservation of Memorials of the Dead |
| JH         | James Hardiman. <i>History of...</i>                             |
| JHLSC      | <i>Galway</i> . See Chapter 12<br>James Hardiman Library         |



|        |                                                                                                            |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JGAHS  | Special Collections (NUIG)<br><i>Journal of the Galway<br/>Archaeological &amp; Historical<br/>Society</i> |
| JOTS   | <i>Journal of the Old Tuam Society</i>                                                                     |
| Lib.   | Library                                                                                                    |
| LGMIT  | Library of the Galway/Mayo<br>Institute of Technology m./<br>marr. marriage/married                        |
| MG     | <i>Galway History and Society</i> . See<br>Chapter 12                                                      |
| Ms/Mss | Manuscript/s                                                                                               |
| N      | <i>Tribes and other Galway Families</i> .<br>See Chapter 12                                                |
| NAI    | National Archives of Ireland<br>(formerly PRO)                                                             |
| n.d.   | not dated                                                                                                  |
| NLI    | National Library of Ireland                                                                                |
| NUIG   | National University of Ireland,<br>Galway                                                                  |
| OF     | R. O'Flaherty... <i>Description of<br/>Connaught</i> . See Chapter 12                                      |
| p./pp. | page/pages                                                                                                 |
| PLU    | Poor Law Union                                                                                             |
| PRO    | Public Record Office (now<br>National Archives of Ireland)                                                 |
| PRONI  | Public Record Office of<br>Northern Ireland                                                                |
| RC     | Roman Catholic                                                                                             |
| RCB(L) | Representative Church Body<br>(Library)                                                                    |
| RIA    | Royal Irish Academy                                                                                        |
| RL     | <i>O'Regan and Lacey</i> .<br><i>Abbeyknockmoy</i> . See Chapter 12                                        |
| SS     | Seán Spellissy. <i>History of<br/>Galway City</i> . See Chapter 12                                         |
| SLC    | Family History Library, Salt<br>Lake City (and branches)                                                   |
| TM     | Tadhg MacLochlain. <i>Historical<br/>Survey</i> . See Chapter 12                                           |

***Lynch's Castle Galway, residence of the Mayor in 1654***

***A page from 'The Miseries and Beauties of Ireland' by  
Jonathan Binns (London 1837).***

# Chapter 1 Introduction

County Galway is the second largest county in Ireland covering an area of 2,293 sq. miles (5,939 sq. km) with its chief centre of population, Galway City, divided by the River Corrib flowing from Lough Corrib, which in turn separates the high lands of Connemara to the west from farm lands to the east. The city's population of 72,414 (according to the 2006 census), combined with 159,052 in the county are the culmination of a long human presence imbedded in this western landscape dating back to Mesolithic or Middle Stone Ages times over 8,000 years ago.

Unlike other Irish urban areas, Galway City was not founded by a Viking influx, but owes its origins to 13<sup>th</sup> century Norman adventurers, led by Richard de Burgo, who established this, the most westerly of his Anglo-Norman settlements, on the eastern bank of the Corrib estuary in the 1230s.

To the native Corribside septs banished westwards beyond the river, these newcomers were 'Gall' or strangers, and in time, this new growth centre gained the Gaelic title, *Gaillimh*, or 'The Place of the Strangers', with the former mutating into the familiar name of 'Galway' today. The rising importance of this new settlement, which accumulated its prosperity on overseas trade, saw its name applied also to the county, when new territorial boundaries were drawn up in the wider province of Connacht in 1576.

Not surprisingly, the de Burgos, whose name was later anglicised to Burkes (or Bourkes in nearby County Mayo), introduced many newcomers into their confiscated western lands such as the powerful Berminghams of Athenry. The evolving town of Galway eventually came to be ruled by fourteen merchant families later known as 'The Tribes of Galway'. These were the families Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Browne, Darcy, Deane, Font, French, Joyce, Kirwan, Lynch, Martin, Morris and Skerrett. Some of these powerful families later

spread their entrepreneurial expertise into managing country estates throughout the county. Many family members eventually emigrated and opened new commercial enterprises in both the old (Europe) and new (America) worlds.

Meanwhile, various English plantation policies in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries introduced new family names to County Galway. These included the Geoghegans who were transplanted from the midlands to Connemara, underlining yet again the infamous 'To Hell or to Connacht' saying engrained in Irish folklore. These unfortunate newcomers had to share ever-decreasing land banks with leading native Galway septs such as the O'Flahertys and O'Hallorans in the west. To the east, long-established families with such proud names as O'Kelly, O'Shaughnessy, Hynes, Lally, O'Fahy, Madden, and O'Daly, later found their properties being assigned to incoming Eyres, St. Georges, Hacketts, Blakeney, Trenches and Persses, under Cromwellian and Williamite military pressures.

Despite numerous cases of land confiscations experienced during these troubled times, other native families managed to survive on the Galway landscape. These include the Donnellans, Egans, Wards, Divillys and Duggans to mention just a few, while to the west, Conneelys, Conroys and Fordes also recall a storied past.

It is a purpose of this book to help you trace your family roots, whatever your family's place in the corridors of Galway history. Although your direct ancestors may only be relatively newcomers to this western scene, there are many local as well as national and international research fonts to be tapped in the search for family identity.

These sources are also available to the descendants of those Galwegians who emigrated to foreign lands. While thousands left for America through the port of Cobh in County Cork, many more shed their tears on the cold limestone quays of Galway Docks. Emigration from Galway started during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, greatly increased during fateful times such as the Great Famine, and continued on the vessels of the Allan Shipping Line as the 20<sup>th</sup> century dawned. In later times, ocean-going liners

anchoring on Galway Bay, sometimes four per week during the 1930s, augmented later by air flights from Shannon Airport, continued this human drain from Galway and its hinterlands.

Hopefully, this publication will be of help to this wide Galway diaspora whose family roots still tingle with memories of potato beds on a lonely western landscape or vaguely hear the call of Claddagh fishermen as their ancient sailing craft meet Corrib quays. These family roots demand recall, and in filling out the family tree, your immediate clan gathers yet again, albeit in a small way on the dotted lines, as the obstacles of death and distance fade before your efforts. This book will attempt to meet that demand.

*County Court House, Galway with a view of the bridge and  
County Gaol*

*A typical pedigree chart layout used for constructing a family  
tree*

## Chapter 2 Getting Started

There are many reasons why you may wish to trace your Galway ancestors, but once you start you will be participating in a process in which many other families are busily engaged. The initial question, of course, is how exactly do you start on your own personal safari of linking up all these distant cousins and long-deceased great-aunts.

The most popular way is to create a family tree. Rather than drawing up the obligatory chart with pen and ruler, why not download a blank pedigree chart from one of the many genealogy software programmes now available on the internet. Once you have the blank chart before you, it is time to start filling in the jigsaw, which may well take much research, communications with those distant cousins, (who may be filling out a chart of their own!) and, above all, patience.

The best place to start, of course, is in your own household, especially with any elders in the family, who can be treasured sources of information. Here, one might use the tape recorder or video camera, because as well as acquiring useful information, you will preserve a time picture of the present, which, will provide a welcome past scenario for future generations of your family.

In this regard, you should also collect family correspondence, birth, marriage and death certificates, remembrance cards, diaries, as well as newspaper clippings and other primary data. Using this initial data, write up or input your gathered information on a computer database, not forgetting to record all sources as well as providing back-up copies in case of loss of data. There are many programmes available which will help you to organise your information. As well, make sure that such gathered primary data is stored in a safe place.

Initially, of course, it is easy to commence filling the family

tree, usually with you at the apex and parents in twin boxes underneath, their own parents underneath in a like manner and so on as the tree expands. Depending on the information available, two factors soon come into play.

If you are lucky enough to have ample information at hand, you can quickly run out of space on your family tree page, so it is wise to open ancillary pages for appropriate sections of your family. More than likely, however, once the great-grandparent stages have been reached, the available data will quickly dry up and it is time to don the mantle of research. For those who can afford it, professional advice/research facilities are available. If you want to hire a professional, do choose from one of the accredited experts in the Republic of Ireland's only regulated body of genealogists, the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland. (APGI) Tel. + 353 (01) 6030200 or see [www.apgi.ie](http://www.apgi.ie)

Alternatively, you can avail of professional advice through the Irish Genealogical Project, which has set up a nationwide network of local genealogical centres. There are two centres in County Galway covering different parts of the county. Galway Family History Society West Ltd. covers the western part of the county, while the eastern section is serviced by the East Galway Family History Society. The contact details for both of these centres are in Chapter 14.

However, personally extracting the information required from the myriad of sources now available may be your preferred route. Filling each blank space in the family tree chart from your own efforts brings satisfaction of a rather special kind. This can be experienced, for instance, by returning a long forgotten relation from the sadness of oblivion to occupy his/her own special place in the Galway family history genre. Helping you fill that space then is the purpose of this book, and in this regard there are many supports and sources available to you in your task.

If you are visiting Galway, the local libraries are places of initial enquiry and help – not alone in their contents, but also staff. Galway County Council Archives and Galway County Libraries

are a treasure trove of information containing tomes of national genealogical importance. They also have a fine collection of local information volumes published across this vast county. Their contact details are in Chapter 14. They also provide genealogical research information in a free leaflet entitled, *Family History & Genealogy - A Brief Research Guide*. Also in Galway, the special collections and archives service of the James Hardiman Library in the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI, G) will be of benefit (also see Chapter14).

In Dublin, The National Library of Ireland and the National Archives of Ireland, (which are in the process of being merged) both house additional information of vital importance to the family historian. In general, the National Archives contain information compiled by public bodies (Government agencies, local authorities etc), while the National Library generally contains information generated by commercial sources (newspapers, books) or private sources (estate papers, letters, etc.). Both also offer a free genealogical advisory service. These and other local and national repositories and support organisations are listed in Chapter 14. If you are conducting your research from outside Ireland, most of the resources required for your research are available in one or other form from libraries or from publishers. Ever more to the fore nowadays, one can also rely on the internet to cast that research cloak further afield, and to also develop invaluable contacts with others with knowledge and interest in the same families.

This book is designed, through its various chapters, to aid you in your research by detailing the range of information sources available. In Chapter 3, we start by describing the administrative divisions, which are vital to understanding how records are organised. Subsequent chapters describe the different forms of records available. These sources increase all the time and publications such as the *Irish Genealogist* journal and the *Irish Roots* magazine, as well as local history publications in Galway, continually publish new information. Further information on these sources can be found in Chapter14. This book also details sources published in electronic form and lists archive guides, directories and other



useful addresses. All it needs now is for you to take the first step.

***A page from the 'General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland' (1851) See page  
20***

## Chapter 3 Administrative Divisions

Before beginning your genealogical research, it is worth noting that addresses can be as important as names in family history research. Because many family names are common, a link with a place is an important means of identifying an ancestor. Land records are important because they provide these links, and also because they are one of the major types of records which exist. Civil administration over the centuries created many different forms of records and these can be divided into those pertaining to land, and those pertaining to people. Similarly, Ecclesiastical administration created additional records, which deal mostly with the latter. To understand these records and their application to your research, it is important to know how the records are organised and the 'divisions' (i.e. units of land) used in their organisation. It is also important to know that they are used differently in Civil Administration than those involving Church of Ireland and Catholic Church parishes.

### Land Administrative Divisions

Land administration is based on a system of division of land into units of progressively smaller size. Taking the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland as a whole, the largest geographical land division to note is that the island is divided into the four **Provinces** of Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connacht. These are divided up unevenly into thirty-two **Counties** of which Galway is the largest in Connacht and the second largest Irish county. The area of Galway was formalised as a county in 1576. Not surprisingly, each county is an important administrative division today. Unlike the USA and some other countries, the county is not a unit for tax collection, education or police administration. However, some local services including library facilities, road maintenance, etc. are provided and administered at county level.

A smaller division, which was used up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>

century, was the **Barony**, which was generally based on the territory of a local ancient clan. As certain records such as Griffith's Valuation were arranged by barony, it can sometimes be important to identify the extent of each within the county area. In the Galway context, there are eighteen baronies (see page 21): Aran, Athenry, Ballymoe, Ballynahinch, Clare, Clonmacnowen, Dunkellin, Dunmore, Galway, Kilconnell, Killian, Kiltartan, Leitrim, Longford, Loughrea, Moycullen, Ross and Tiaquin.

An even smaller land division, and of special importance in family roots research, is the **Civil Parish**. There are 120 civil parishes spread across the large land mass of County Galway. Difficulties can arise in genealogical research programmes because parishes sometimes cross boundaries of county and barony alike. In rare cases the boundaries may have been changed slightly at some time for various administrative reasons. It should be noted that baronies and civil parishes are not used as administrative units today.

Finally, the smallest division of land is the **Townland**, which can vary in size from just a few acres (e.g. Milestone Townland beside Lough Atalia in Galway City) to others which extend over many acres of bogland in Connemara. Not surprisingly, this smaller division of land, of which there are 64,000 in Ireland, is at the core of family research. It is still the unit of address for people in rural areas. Knowing the townland of an ancestor helps greatly in gaining access to civil parish, barony and county records.

Researching these divisions can be done through a basic but most thorough reference source entitled the *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland*. This is an index prepared for the use of census enumerators (see Chapter 5) every decade between 1821 and 1921. Readily available is the 1851 index, which was published originally by Thom's as *An Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland*. It has been republished (Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 2000) and can be consulted at Galway County Libraries and in most other

libraries, as can those for the other ten yearly periods. Meanwhile, 17<sup>th</sup> century information can be gleaned from Y. M. Goblet's *1655-59 Index of Parishes & Townlands* published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission (Dublin 1932). It is available at the National Library at NLI Ir. 9141 gb.

### *The Baronies of Galway*

#### *The Civil Parishes of Galway (West)*

#### **The Civil Parishes of Galway in Map Number Order**

#### *The Civil Parishes of Galway (East)*

#### **The Civil Parishes of Mayo in Alphabetical Order**

As well as these purely land divisions, two other divisions have been created, with more emphasis on inhabitants, since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. **Poor Law Unions** were established under the 1838 Poor Law Act, whose purpose was to alleviate destitution and mass hunger. This was a period when various famines raged about the Irish countryside, and County Galway suffered more than most. These PLUs were created purely on local economic grounds, i.e. they were an area (generally within 30 miles radius of a large town) within which taxes were collected for support of the poor and within which these funds were distributed, usually through maintenance of a 'Workhouse'. These unions did not recognise county or barony boundaries and their means of administering distress depended on a locally-elected Commission, and was funded by locally collected poor 'rates'. Each of the one hundred and sixty-three Poor Law unions (PLUs) eventually created, were designated areas around major market towns. The dreaded workhouse (in which the destitute were housed) and various other institutions such as fever hospitals were based in these towns.

County Galway contained ten unions – Ballinasloe, Clifden, Galway, Glenamaddy, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Oughterard, Portumna and Tuam. It should be noted that Galway County Council Archives (see Chapter 14) holds collections, primarily consisting of Minute Books, for eight of the ten unions, with Oughterard and Portumna being the exceptions. While these Minutes contain only occasional names of inmates, they do contain information of weekly happenings in the workhouse, including statistics on number of inmates, male and female as well as children, and give a precise insight of conditions in these institutions at the time. A useful web site on the workhouses of Britain and Ireland is [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)

The above PLUs later became used for other administrative purposes. Most significantly, the **District Electoral Division**, (DED) was a sub-division of the Poor Law Union. From the early 19<sup>th</sup> century this was used to compile census information (see Chapter 5) and later to carry out other administrative functions such as civil registration of births, marriages and deaths (Chapter 4). Later still, they were also, in lieu of the Local Government Act of 1898, used in local and national elections. Various land surveys were also conducted over the years for a range of administrative reasons. These can greatly augment the vast amount of information offered to genealogical research. See Chapter 8 - Land and

Related Records.

## **Ecclesiastical Divisions**

As well as civil administration divisions, the churches also established divisions or areas for their administrative purposes. These differ to some extent between the different denominations. Although there is close correlation between the divisions (parishes, etc.) established by the Church of Ireland and Catholic Churches, those devised by the smaller denominations often have nothing in common with any other church. A full description of the eight main denominations and the organisation and history of their records is available in *Irish*

*Church Records'*, Ed.

James G Ryan, Flyleaf Press.

## ***Church of Ireland Parish***

Until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Church of Ireland was the 'Established' or State Church and administered many of the civil functions which would nowadays be carried out by the State. These included legal transactions such as the proving of wills, granting marriage licences and registering of deaths. Their most unpopular duty from the Catholic viewpoint, was collecting tithes, which were a local tax established to finance the operation of the Church of Ireland, but payable by all land occupiers regardless of their religion (See Chapter 6). The basic administrative unit for this purpose was the **parish**. The Church of Ireland parish is the same as the Civil parish. Although usually confining their administration functions of recording births, marriages and deaths, etc. to the civil parish area, some Church of Ireland churches served more than one civil parish.

As with the Catholic church, Church of Ireland parishes combine to form **dioceses**. In the County Galway context, three dioceses come into play, Tuam, Killala and Achonry. Chapter 6 provides a listing of Galway C of I parishes and their records.

## ***Catholic Parish***

Although bearing the same name as a civil parish, Catholic parishes rarely conform exactly to the area of a civil parish and often reflect a more ancient origin. They also combine to form dioceses, and in County Galway, some are quite fragmented spilling into five different dioceses, i.e. Galway, Tuam, Clonfert, Elphin and Achonry. Chapter 6 provides a listing of Galway RC parishes and their records.

***A description of the civil parish of Rahoon from 'Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland' (1837) - See page 29***

## ***Other Administrative Divisional Aids***

Other administrative divisional aids include Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* first published in 1837, which, 'contains an alphabetically arranged account' of its civil parishes, and major market towns including Galway City itself. It provides information on such items as major landowners, ecclesiastical divisions/churches and also includes a set of maps of the 32 counties. It has been republished by Kenny's Bookshop and Art Galleries Ltd., Liosban Estate, Tuam Road, Galway; De Burca Books of Dublin; and the Genealogical Publishing Co. Baltimore, USA, as well as being available in libraries.

Another work similar to the above is *The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland for 1844/5* (A. Fullerton, Dublin, 1846). NLI Ir. 9141 p. 30.

***An extract from 'The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland. See above.***

***An entry from the register of births showing the details of Catherine McDonough born in Clynagh in 1878.***

## Chapter 4 Civil Registration

On the 20th August 1845 spores of *Phytophthora infestans*, the potato blight fungus, wafted gently on south-east winds and settled on green stalks in County Dublin initiating the 'Great Famine', which was to last for five years. Ironically, another important family event took place that year, which was that Civil registration, or the official recording of important family events, came into operation.

Initially, civil registration confined itself to the recording of non-Catholic marriages in that fateful year in Ireland's history. Some nineteen years later, in 1864, with the population reduced from about eight million to six million, the official recording of all marriages as well as births and deaths finally commenced. It could be said that the 'Great Famine' concentrated official minds on the importance of population statistics, and helped initiate the recording of the other two major events vital to a family history.

That such recordings are of importance to the family researcher can be seen from the information contained in each of the three main documents of civil registration:

**Birth Records:** These specify child's name, date and place of birth, name of father and his occupation, name and maiden name of mother and information on the informant.

**Marriage Records:** These specify place and date of marriage, name, age, address and occupations of the bride and groom, name and occupation of fathers of bride and groom as well as witnesses to the happy event. The age is very often indicated only as 'minor' or 'full age' (i.e. under or over 21).

**Death Records:** These specify date and place of death, name of the deceased, marital status, age, occupation, cause of death and information on the informant.



This information is made available by the General Register Office (GRO) whose headquarters is in Roscommon in the West of Ireland (see [www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie)). However, there is Public Research Room in Dublin. The registers can not be inspected personally, however photocopies of the entries can be ordered after a reference has been obtained from the indexes to the registrations. A daily research fee can be paid by visitors or a fee to view five consecutive years of indexes to births, marriages or marriages may be preferred. These yearly indexes are alphabetically arranged by the surname followed by the forename, registration district, volume number and page number. In the case of deaths index, the age given at the time of death is also included in brackets. When an entry of interest is identified in an index, a photocopy from the relevant register or a full certificate can then be obtained.

Up to 1877 the indexes are in single A to Z yearly volumes. From 1878 each yearly volume is subdivided into four quarters as follows: January to March, April to June, July to September and October to December. It is important to remember that the indexes are compiled on the dates of registration and not the date when a birth, marriage or death took place. Therefore the birth of a child in March may appear in the January to March quarter or in the April to June quarter of the index. Likewise a death taking place in December may appear in the October to December quarter or in the first quarter of the following year. Late registrations (which are common) are indexed at the end of each volume, so should be checked when searching the main index.

### ***Entries from the Index to Births in Ireland for the June Quarter of 1878***

Copies of certificates are also available by mail from the GRO, which will accept email enquiries for searches of periods of up to five years. Indexes are available for the periods from 1864-1995, and computerised data since 1996. Data is indexed for all thirty-two counties in the island up to 1921, and for the

twenty-six counties of the Republic of Ireland from 1922.

Personal research can also be carried out in the Superintendent Register's Office in Galway City (advance booking is required) - see Chapter 14.

If a relevant entry is found, two possible forms can be obtained (a) a photocopy of the original register or (b) a modern transcription of the register which is necessary if the certificate is to be used for any official purpose. It is of interest to note that the documents available at the GRO are copies and that original registers are retained at their local district registrar offices. The administrative areas for civil registration from which the records are collected are called registration districts, they are based on the Poor Law Unions (See Chapter 3).

There are 13 civil registration districts which cover Galway (see below), however, some cross the boundaries of the neighbouring counties. LDS microfilm records contain much of the GRO records and information on these is available at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

### ***Civil Registration Districts for County Galway.***

It should be remembered that not all data supplied to the GRO is cast in the stone of reliability, because discrepancies in all three areas of civil registration occurred for various reasons. Much of the information supplied came from family sources, and may not be reliable. Much of society was preoccupied with mere survival during various periods of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and events may therefore not be registered, or dates or ages or even names may not be reliably notified. It is also useful to note that some time may have elapsed before an event was registered, so that an event may be registered several years after it occurred. One must therefore be aware of late registration data, which is kept in a separate section of each year index volumes in each of the three categories.

It is also useful to know that age was not an important item of

personal information until relatively recent times. Thus, one should not be surprised to learn that as the 19<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, many a Galway person's age was determined for pension purposes not by actual birth registration data, but according to which side of the 'Night of the Big Wind', (6<sup>th</sup> January 1839), the person was said to have been born!

Other difficulties occur when one checks the various indexes for surnames. Although in alphabetical order, Irish surnames have many variations when translated from the Gaelic and many were recorded using simply the phonetics of the name itself. Therefore, expect trouble with such Galway name favourites as Connolly or Conneely in the Connemara area of the county. Meanwhile, the profusion of identical surnames, whatever the spelling in local areas, as in the former Claddagh fishing village on the banks of the River Corrib in Galway City, often led to children using their mother's or even grandmother's surname when local queries were being made. See *Down by the Claddagh*, 1993, by this author.

Also the natives bearing 'O's and 'Macs/Mcs' before their surnames were an anathema to the solid merchant 'Tribes' of Galway, and were not allowed to 'swagger' through the streets in medieval times. These same prefixes can also cause unending trouble to the modern researcher, depending on their inclusion or omission in the text being researched. It is therefore useful to search with and without the O' or Mac' in civil records.

***An entry from the civil marriage register showing the details of the marriage of Michael King and Barbara Millane in July 1875.***

Even first names can lead to some difficulties because of the desire in the past to honour children with the name of saints, especially those with an important Irish background. The more famous of these such as Patrick and Bridget were commonly used, and their popularity can lead to some confusion. On the other hand, localised saintly names can be overused also, Enda and Colman being particularly common, in the Galway context,

especially in townlands once under the local saint's direct influence.

Despite these drawbacks, the researcher will find more as he/she progresses in the research process, civil registration records can aid greatly in filling out the family tree, especially if combined with other sources such as parish, land and particularly census records.

### **Other civil registration records held in the GRO:**

- Births and Deaths of Irish subjects at sea from 1864.
- Births, Deaths and Marriages of Irish subjects serving in the British army overseas from 1880.
- Births of Irish subjects abroad from 1864.

In other words, the GRO is a treasure trove, which can add valuable information to the family tree.

## Chapter 5 Census, Census Substitutes and Other Sources

This chapter lists a range of sources of information on persons resident in Galway. They were compiled for a variety of different religious, legal and administrative purposes, but are very useful as they act as ‘substitute’ censuses in the absence of formal census information. Although a national census survey was carried out in Ireland each decade from 1821 onwards, unfortunately, only those of 1901 and 1911 survive intact - see pages 46 and 50. Their absence is the result of the vicissitudes of destruction by war, state orders or accidental fire. Only fragments of the censuses conducted between 1821-1851 survive, thus the importance of *Griffith's Valuation* and other ancillary records of the time.

For each national census return, the head of the household provided family names, age, relationships, occupations, places of birth, marital status of each person listed, as well as a description and location of the property involved, thus providing an insight into the family fortune at the time of the census.

To use these records fully, the address, (street or townland) as well as name of the person sought must be known. Oral recall as well as records of every sort, from birth certificates to headstone inscriptions, can help in revealing the former. Happily, as well as the two full census returns (held in the NAI), and on microfilm in the CGL and in the Microform Room of the JHLSC at 304.6094174 IRE., there are a number of records which may be used as Census Substitutes, many of which are held in the NLI. The latter, in its *Getting Started* Pamphlet (No. 1), notes that “there is a useful chapter on ‘Census Substitutes’ in DE Begley (ed.) *Irish Genealogy: a Record Finder*. County by county listings of Census Substitutes can be found in John Grenham’s, *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*, and in James Ryan’s, *Irish Records*:

*Sources for Family and Local History.*” The records for 1901 and 1911 are now available on the web – visit [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

The following list contains census substitutes for Co Galway by year, which may also be of help to the Galway family history researcher:

**1574. *Galway Castles and Owners.***

In *JGAHS*, Vol. 1 (2), 1901, pp. 109-23.

**1599. *Principal Inhabitants.***

Description of the Co. of Galway with names of the principal inhabitants. NLI P1707.

**1640 and 1657. *Papist and Protestant Proprietors in Galway Town.***

A list of houses in the town of Galway showing their proprietors (Irish papists) before the Catholic Rebellion of 1641 and in 1656 when most of the properties had been confiscated and given to English adventurers and soldiers (English protestants). In *‘The History of the Town and County of Galway from the Earliest period to the Present Time’* by James Hardiman (Dubin 1820). Appendix 7; SLC film 990403. See below.

**1641. *Books of Survey and Distribution***

They record land ownership up to 1641 and the new owners in following confiscations. The Book for Galway has been published by the IMC. Also NLI Ms. 969.

**1657. *English Protestant Proprietors in Galway Town and its Liberties.***

A list is contained in JH, Appendices 6 and 7; SLC film 990403.

**1664. *The Dispossessed Landowners of Ireland*** (See page 91).

***Papist and Protestant Proprietors in Galway Town.*** - See above.

**1704-1985. List of Parish Priests of Donaghpatrick/Kilcoona.**

These are contained in the publication, *The White Canons – Abbeytown Cill-na-Manach 1260-1990* by Jim Higgins and Anna McHugh published by the Crow's Rock Press for Donaghpatrick/Kilcoona Community Council Heritage Society, 1990.

**1724. Galway Hearth Money Roll.**

Contained in PRONI box D/4218/L1, described as 'Letters and papers of Right Hon. Henry Maxwell, 1721-37'. The area surveyed was a number of streets within the old medieval walls of Galway and are recorded by Bernadette Cunningham in the *JGAHS*, Vol. 56 (2004), pp. 60-74.

**1727. Galway Election List.**

Article by Raymond Hughes in *JGAHS*, Vol. 35, 1976, pp. 105-28 contains lists of all entitled to vote, ie. Protestants, and also classified list according to trade.

**1749. Census of Elphin Diocese.**

Includes Ahascragh Parish and records householders, occupations, number of children and servants. PRO film 2466. SLC film 101781.

**1775. Catholic Qualification Roll Extracts.**

Contains eighty-four names, addresses and occupations. 59<sup>th</sup> Report DKPRI: pp. 50-84.

**1790/1994. Parish Priests**

List of Parish Priests in Carrowbrowne/Castlegar and Curates 1829-1996. The main achievements of the various Parish Priests as well as their origins are contained in *History of Castlegar Parish* by Padraic Ó Laoi.

**1791. Survey of the Town of Loughrea.**

*JGAHS* Vol. 24 (3,4), 1951, pp. 95-110, gives names of residents on each street as well as corresponding map.

**1794. Roman Catholic Freemen of Galway Town.**

A list of 300 names. *JGAHS* Vol. 9 (1), 1915, pp. 62-6

**1798. *List of Convicted Rebels from Galway.***

A list of 130 names, occupations, addresses and faith. *JGAHS* Vol. 25, (3,4), 1953, pp. 104-33 also NLI JLB 94107

**1798. *List of those who suffered losses in the 1798 Rebellion.***

NLI JLB 94107

**1801 – 6. *Inhabitants of Killalaghten Catholic Parish***

Included in the parish records of Cappataggle. NLI P 2431.

**1805. *Tenants of JP Smyth at Gort Co Galway in 1805.***

Ir. Anc. 14(1) (1982): pp 20-21. See below.

**1810-1819. *Account books of Christopher St. George, Oranmore.***

An index to persons in the household account books of Christopher St. George of Kilcolgan Castle, Oranmore is published in Ir.Gen. 7(1) (1986): pp 101-112.

**1821. *Government Census Remnants.***

Returns for the parishes of Athenry, Inishmore, Kilconickny, Kilconnieran, Killimordaly, Kilreekil, Kiltullagh. GO Ms 622, 53ff; SLC film 597734.

**1821. *Government Census Remnants for Galway City.***

Available in NAI and published in *Utah Gen. and Hist. Mag.* 4 (1918), pp. 75-79.

**1821 *Kiltullagh District Census Records.***

Many of the 1821 census records for the Parish of Kiltullagh are included by John Duane in *Kiltullagh Killimordaly As The Centuries Passed* edited by Kieran Jordan, published by Kiltullagh/Killmordaly Historical Society, 2000. These include names, relationships, age, occupation and acreage holdings.

**1823/1838 *Land Owners and Tenant Names***

Tithe book and Griffith's Valuation records for Abbeyknockmoy. Land owners and tenant names for the various townlands are included in RL (pp. 85-104). See also Chapter 8.

**1827. *Church of Ireland Parishioners of Aughrim.***



Names of parents and children plus ages of latter in Aughrim C of I parish register. PRO film 5359.

***1829-58. Rentals of Shee Estate (Dunmore area).***

NAI M.3105-3120

***1831. List of those made Freemen of Galway see 1837***

***1832-36. Holders/Applicants for Liquor Licenses.***

Names of Holders/Applicants for Licenses to sell Liquor in Galway. Parliamentary Papers 1837/38, 13 (2): Appendix 10. - NLI

***1832 - 1837 List of Freemen eligible to vote in Galway City.***

'Appendix to Report from the Select Committee on Fictitious Votes, Ireland' Parliamentary Papers 1837, 2 (1). Addresses and occupations given. Abstracted in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996 pp 23-35.

*page 23 from Galway Roots - See above.*

***1834. List of Parishioners of Kinvara and Killina.***

NLI Pos 2442

***1836. Freeholders of Co Galway.***

Pub. in *Galway Advertiser* March 1836

***1837. List of those made Freemen of Galway since 1831.***

Given are names, addresses, and residences in Parliamentary Papers 1837, 2 (1): Appendix B1; 1837/38, 13 (2): Appendix 3. Also names and residences of several persons in the city of Galway who were discharged from payment of rates and taxes. Reports from Committees. Parliamentary Papers 1837, 2 (1): (39), pp. 206-10. Also, Occupants of Galway, arranged by street, giving property values in Parliamentary Papers, 1837, 2 (1), Appendix G, 206-10.

***1839. List of persons who obtained Game Certificates in Galway.***

**1839-46 *List of Subscribers to RC Chapel at Dunmore.***

Gives name, townlands, and subscriptions in Catholic Church Records of Dunmore, NLI P4211.

**1839-49. *Emigrants from East Galway.***

Data from Irvilloughter and Boughill (parts of Ahascragh and Taghboy) including names, ages, and relationships of 410 people, dates of departure and arrival. In Ellis, E., *Emigrants from Ireland 1847-52*, pp. 22-41.

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977.

**1841. *Fragments from Census of Loughrea.***

NAI M1502 and NAI GO Ms 622, 53ff

**1848. *Emigrants to New York.***

List of emigrants to New York on the ship 'Clarence' from Galway Port. The ship sailed on 21st April and the list is contained in *Galway Roots*, Summer, 1993.

**1848-52. *Assisted passengers from Ahascra.***

Anal. Hib. 22 (1960).

**1848. *Tynagh National School.***

Staff and pupils (boys from 1891, girls from 1927). Information in 'Tynagh Millennium Review' by Tynagh and District Development Society Ltd., 2000.

**1847 – 1852. *State-aided Emigration***

A list of emigrants from Estates of Boughill and Irvilloughter to Canada, (1848-49) by Sandra Flaherty and Catherine Lavelle in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 3, 1995, also, *Emigrants from Ireland 1847-52*, p.22-41. Ellis, E., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977. See page 45

**1850 – 1859. *Emigrants to U.S. and Australia from Kilchreest, etc.***

From register kept by the Hon. and Rev. William O'Grady, Archdeacon of Kilmacduagh from *Galway Roots*, Vol. 3, 1995.

**1851. *Fragments from Census of Loughrea.***

NAI M150

**1853-56. *Griffith's Valuation - See Chapter 8.***

**1854. *Griffith's Valuation Records for Kiltullagh/Killimordaly.***

These are included in '*Kiltullagh Killimordaly As The Centuries Passed*' edited by Kieran Jordan, published by Killtullagh/Killmordaly Historical Society, 2000.

**1854. *Griffith Valuation Records for Kilconieran and Clostown.***

Are included in '*Castles and Demesnes – Gleanings from Kilconieran and Clostown*', Vol. 1 by Fr. Cathal Stanley, 2000.

**1854 - 1868. *Galway Marriages in Liverpool.***

Article by Jo McCann based on information from The Anglo-Irish Group of Liverpool and S. W. Lancashire Family History Society in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996

**1871-1872. *County Galway Births, Marriages and Deaths.***

Births, marriages and deaths in the *Tuam News* and *Western Advertiser* and extracted by Paul O'Donnell in *Galway Roots*, Vol. V, 1998.

**1886. *Evicted Tenants from Clanricarde, Lewis and Burke Estates.***

Lists of evicted tenants from the above contained in '*A Forgotten Campaign*', 1986, by Woodford Heritage Group.

*Entries from 'Emigrants from Ireland 1847-52' See page 44*

**1889. *Passengers who boarded Steamship 'Siberian' for U.S.***

A list of 402 Galway passengers; names, occupations and destinations given in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 3, 1995.

**1891-1991. *Parish Priests and Curates of Carnaun and Athenry.***

A list is of parish priests and curates of Carnaun and Athenry

contained in '*Carnaun School Athenry, 1891-1991*', by Finbarr O'Regan, 1991.

***1893-1912. Roll of pupils in Carnaun National School, Athenry.***

It contains the names of the first pupils, dates of birth, religion, and occupation of parents. '*Carnaun School Athenry, 1891-1991*', by Finbarr O'Regan, 1991.

***1885 - 1890. Roll lists of pupils in Carnmore National School.***

Dates of entry, age, and addresses are contained in '*Claregalway Parish History 750 Years*', published by Claregalway Historical and Cultural Society, 1999.

***1901. Government Census of Ireland.***

This was the official Government Census of all households conducted on Sunday the 31st of March 1901. The details given in these returns are as follows: Forename, Surname, Relationship to Head of family, Religion, Literacy, Age, Sex, Occupation, Marital Status, Birthplace, Ability to speak Irish, and Infirmities. These returns are available on microfilm in the NAI, alternatively they can be viewed and down loaded in pdf file format from [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie) - See page 47.

***1901. Census for the Townlands adjacent to Kilnamanagh Abbey.***

Census for Townlands adjacent to Kilnamanagh Abbey in the Donaghpatrick Electoral Division, contained in '*The White Canons - Abbeystown Cill-na-Manach 1260-1990. A History of the Monastery of the White Canons and other Historical Places in the District of Máigh Seola*' by Jim Higgins and Anna McHugh published by the Crow's Rock Press for Donaghpatrick/Kilcoona Community Council Heritage Society, 1990.

***1901. Census for Carnaun National School Area.***

Including parts of the parishes of Athenry, Abbeyknockmoy and Lackagh. These are contained in '*Carnaun School Athenry 1891-1991*', published by Finbarr O'Regan, 1991.

***A 1901 census return showing the details of the Mannion family of Cross Street in Portumna. - See page 46***

***1901. Trades in the Abbeyknockmoy Area.***

Extracted from the census returns, these are included in 'Abbeyknockmoy A Time to Remember' (pp. 168-170) by Carol O'Regan and Audrey Lacey, 1996.

***1901. Census of Children in Galway City Institutions.***

Information from the 1901 census compiled by Mae Prendergast for *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996.

***1901. List of Postal Personnel for the Galway West Area.***

Extracted by Marie Mannion from 1901 Census and published in *Galway Roots*, Vol. V, 1998.

***1906 - 2007. One Hundred Years of Galway City Elections.***

Successful candidates in the various elections held in the Galway City area. Published in the 'Old Galway' column by Tom Kenny on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 edition of the *Galway Advertiser*.

***1907 Evicted Tenants***

Lists of persons who have lodged applications with the Estates Commissioners Office as evicted tenants, or as the representative of evicted tenants, and who have been noted as being suitable for holdings. The details for the Galway applicants gives name, address, estate, townland, area (a.r.p.), rent prior to eviction, circumstances of applicant, and name of present occupier. Available on CD-ROM at [www.archivecdbooks.ie](http://www.archivecdbooks.ie) - See page 49.

***1908 - 1922. Old Age Pension Census Search Applications***

The Pension act of 1908 allowed for persons of 70 years and over to receive an 'old-age' pension. As the civil registration of births only began in 1864, birth certificates were not available as proof of age. A common method of proving age was to apply for a search of the household return for the applicant's home in one of the earlier censuses (usually those of 1841, 1851 or 1861). This should show the applicant and give an age at the time of the particular census searched, and would (where relevant) prove the applicant's eligibility for pension payment.

The applicant's details were completed on census search application forms, also known as Green Forms (although not all are green).

These search forms are held in the NAI, and are indexed by the county, barony, parish and townland in which the search was made. Each gives the name of the family who were claimed to be resident in the census. The Green form provides the following details: Name and address of applicant; Name of parents of applicant (with maiden name of mother if given); Name of head of family if other than father; Relationship and occupation; Year of census to be searched; Parish; Townland/ Street and date of receipt of application. Held in NAI; Copies are also held at the PRONI (Belfast). They can also be accessed (for a fee) on [www.ireland-genealogy.com](http://www.ireland-genealogy.com) which has 2421 records for Galway.

***An extract from the '1907 Evicted Tenants' - See page 48.***

### ***1909 – 1923. Claregalway Girls and Boys National Schools' Roll.***

Dates of entry, addresses and father's occupation are contained in *Claregalway Parish History 750 Years*, published by Claregalway Historical and Cultural Society, 1999.

### ***1911. Census Returns of Ireland.***

This was the official Government Census of all households conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1911. Each household return gives the following details for each occupant: Forename, Surname, Relationship to Head of family, Religion, Literacy, Age, Occupation, Marital Status, Number of years married, Numbers of births, Birthplace, Languages spoken (i.e. Irish and/or English) and Infirmities. Of particular relevance is the additional details it provides about marriage and childbirth. Where a marriage is indicated, the number of years the marriage has lasted is also given. There is also a column indicating the number of children born, and still alive at the time of that census. Microfilms of these returns are held in NAI. They can also be viewed and down loaded in pdf file format

from [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie). - See page 51

***1911 – 1957. Education data from Kiltullagh/Killimordaly.***

Twenty-two school class photographs including dates and names of pupils of three national schools at Esker, Kiltullagh and Brackloon are contained in articles by Majella O'Dea, Kieran Jordan and Frank Burke in '*Kiltullagh Killimordaly As The Centuries Passed*' edited by Kieran Jordan, published by Kiltullagh/Killimordaly Historical Society, 2000.

***Other Sources 1593-1860. Alumni Dublinenses.***

A 'Register of the Students, Graduates, Professors and Provosts of Trinity College, Dublin from 1593 - 1860'. Gives dates of admission, father's name and occupation, subject etc. Compiled by Burtchaell and Sadlier (Dublin 1935). Available in the NLI. A CD covering the period 1593 to 1846 is available from [www.archivedbooks.ie](http://www.archivedbooks.ie)

***Typical entries from the 1593-1860 Alumni Dublinenses***

***A 1911 census return showing the details of the Joyce family of Cloonnacartan in the civil parish of Moyrus. - See page 50***

***1703 - 1838. Convert Rolls***

An index by surname of over 5,500 people who converted from Catholicism to the Church of Ireland during the period 1703 - 1838. These Rolls were edited by Eileen O'Byrne (I M C Dublin 1981).

***1760-1901 Changes of Name.***

Compiled by W.P.W Phillimore and Edward Fry, primarily based on the Changes of Name by Royal Licence. Extracted from the London Gazette and Dublin Gazette from 1760 to 1901. Arranged alphabetically by the current name followed by original name and in some cases, date and brief comment. On CD from [www.genealogy.demon.co.uk](http://www.genealogy.demon.co.uk)

### ***1814 - 1922. Royal Irish Constabulary***

The Irish police force came into being as the Irish Peace Preservation Force in 1814. In 1836 the Irish Constabulary was formed, and was renamed the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1867. During its existence some 90,000 men enrolled. The records of all of these are held by the Public Record Office in London and a microfilm copy is available in the NAI. The records are indexed by the initial letter of the surname of the member in two periods i.e. 1816-67 and 1867-1922. They contain the following details: Name; Age when appointed; Height; Native County; Religion; Date of marriage; Native county of wife; and Dates of appointments, allocations, transfers, promotions; rewards/Marks of distinction etc., punishments etc. It also specifies when discharged, dismissed, resigned, died or pensioned. The index and details can be consulted at the NAI (Ref. MFA 24/1-16) or Public Record Office. London (Ref. HO 184.43). RIC. Directories for the years 1840-45, 1857, 1876-79 and 1881-1921 are also available in the National Library of Ireland.

### ***1914-1918. Galway Roll of Honour.***

Galway soldiers of the Great War. *'Forgotten Heroes: Galway Soldiers of the Great War 1914-1918'*, by William Henry, Cork, 2007,

### ***1914 - 1918. Irishmen who died in the First World War***

These memorials are of Irishmen in Irish and British regiments of the British Army who lost their lives in the Great European War of 1914-1918. Details were compiled from private sources and press reports and published in 1923 by the Irish National War Memorials Commission. The 49,400 entries provide: Name; Regiment number; Rank; Battalion; Place of death; Date of death and, in the majority of entries, the place of birth. A copy of these records was placed in every major library in Ireland. It has also been published on CD-ROM from [www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie)

***Irishmen who died in the First World War 1914-1918 See page 52.***



**1923 *Thom's Irish Who's Who (First Edition)***

A biographical book of reference of prominent men and women in Irish life. Includes short biographies and addresses for many residents and officials of Galway. Available on CD from [www.archivecdbooks.ie](http://www.archivecdbooks.ie)

*An entry from Thom's Irish Who's Who. - see above.*

## Chapter 6 Church Records

Church records, which are mainly registers of baptisms and marriages, are invaluable sources due to the relative absence of many other forms of Irish records. They usually pre-date the initiation of civil registration in 1864, and after about 1820 it is reasonable to expect that a church record for most people will exist. The 1861 Government Census showed that Galway residents were 96.5% Catholic, 3% Protestant: 0.2% Presbyterian and 0.2% Methodist. Records of all these churches exist, and are the only record of the existence of many, if not most of the people of the county before 1864. However, the practices of these churches and the nature and survival of their records was heavily influenced by historical events. A full account of the historical background to church records of the eight main denominations is given in *Irish Church Records* (Flyleaf Press, 2001). These records are discussed below, and sources of the records for each parish are also provided.

Following the turmoil of the Reformation in Ireland during the 16th century, the Catholic and Anglican churches went their separate ways and developed separate parish structures and practices, although diocesan boundaries mainly remained the same. Two main sets of church records have therefore become available to the family history researcher. The Anglican Church, or Church of Ireland (CoI), became the official state church, retaining the old parochial spatial areas (which correspond to later civil parishes - see Chapter 3. The Catholic parish, on the other hand, had no civil purpose and its boundaries reflected changing times. They became larger as clergy numbers were curtailed during the penal era of the 18th century. When repression of the church eased in the 19th century and clergy numbers grew, new parishes were created. The restrictions on the Catholic church of the 18th century have resulted in few Catholic church registers surviving from that period, although fragments survive for Galway City.

Local parish church records are the main source of family information prior to the start of civil registration in 1864, and vary as regards their availability, contents and starting dates depending on their denominational setting. Thus, Catholic church records, although the most numerous, start later than those of the CoI, with many registers not commencing until the mid 19th century, although some Galway City parishes date start a century earlier.

### **Information Provided:**

Catholic baptismal registers include the date and names of child, father, mother's maiden name and those of sponsors, known as godparents. Most record the area of residence. Many registers are written in Latin, especially in Irish-speaking districts and it should be noted that this would have included much of the county in the 19th century. The CoI baptismal registers, some of which date from 1634, provide similar information but differ in only providing the Christian name of the mother as well as that of the officiating clergyman.

Catholic Church marriage records include at the minimum, date, names of couple involved and witnesses, whereas only names of the marrying couple and officiating clergyman are included in CoI records although the latter church was more fastidious in recording burials.

### **Access to Records:**

A significant occurrence in church records, further detailed in the report entitled, *The Provision of Genealogical Services in Ireland*, commissioned by the Heritage Council in 2000, is that many of the CoI records were destroyed in the 1922 Public Record Office fire. Today, remaining pre-1869 original registers are held in the National Archives (as well as an important catalogue of COI records), and post this date, in the RCB(L), or at parish level.

On the other hand, the Catholic hierarchy retained control of church records solely in the hands of the parish priests of each locality. The vast majority of these Catholic parish registers were microfilmed (usually up to 1880) by the NLI and are available for consultation in that archive. After 1864, when civil

registration came into play - See Chapter 4. Church records are generally less useful as the civil records contain more detail. Most of the Church records in the country have also been indexed by local heritage centres and searches can be carried out for a fee - See Chapter 14. They can also be accessed on microfilm at the NLI or through the LDS libraries.

Of importance to the family history researcher using the NLI is the list of Parish Registers on microfilm, which includes a list of parishes by diocese. Check the index in the Irish Catholic Directory if you are unsure of which diocese corresponds to the parish you are researching. The Galway Diocese, which only separated from the Archdiocese of Tuam in 1831, covers portions of Counties Mayo and Clare as well as Galway, and Galway parishes form parts of other dioceses such as Tuam, Clonfert and Elphin.

The LDS also contains the same microfilm collection of Catholic material, while the official local research centres, the Galway Family History Society West Ltd. (GFHSW) and the East Galway Family History Society (EGFHS) have indexed records from most parishes. These indexed records are indicated in the table that appears on the following pages.

In summary, Galway church records exist in the following forms:

- On microfilm at the NLI (RC), RAI (CoI) and LDS libraries
- Indexed databases available through the local heritage centres (see below)
- Original copies are in local parishes, or (in the case of CoI) the RCB Library or National Archives.
- A very small proportion are published as extracts in a variety of sources

### **Catholic Church Records**

The Catholic church records of the 76 parishes of Galway are listed alphabetically by parish in the following table, with the dates for which baptisms, marriages and deaths are available, the heritage centre which has indexed their records is also

listed. For the diocese of Tuam one should also consult *'Marriages in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tuam 1821-1829'*. (USA: Heritage Books, 1993). Original in NLI film P4222.

(Ongoing Computerisation for further CoI parishes of Ardrahan, Dunmore, Kilmoylan and Oranmore continues at GFHSW)

\* Some records are missing

\*\* Earliest records for this parish (Moycullen) began in 1786 -, unfortunately, the register(s) containing records from 1786-1848 could not be located. They are available on microfilm in the National Library of Ireland.

Much of the above data, which is an indication of the available church records of County Galway, are included in the microfilm set of the NLI, and approximately one third resides also in the LDSL and can be assessed under various terms therein.

Meanwhile, in the Galway City CoI context, of interest to the family researcher will be the publication, Register of the Parish of St. Nicholas Galway 1792 – 1840, by Brigid Clesham, 2004, which contains 908 baptism records, 410 marriages and 39 burials for the period in question.

***Marriage entries from 'Marriages in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tuam 1821-1829'. (Heritage Books, USA 1993).  
Original in NLI film P4222.***

***Memorial Inscriptions from Tuam Cathedral published in the  
Journal of Association for Preservation of Memorials of the  
Dead Memorial Inscriptions from Tuam Cathedral***

## Chapter 7 Gravestone Inscriptions

A graveyard can be described as a village or even a city of the dead depending on its extent. Today, some of the lesser sites sink gently into the green landscape like the old clauachans or small deserted villages of the Ireland of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While crumbling homes leave no identification of their former inhabitants, graveyards, no matter how overgrown, can still carry precise information on many of their silent occupants. With a few exceptions (e.g. military or clerical graves) gravestones are erected by the family and the information they contain has been provided by family members. This information can be rich in its detail of relationships, and can also provide addresses, birthplaces, occupations, etc. Such inscriptions are of interest to the living and are priceless sources of information to the family researcher. While visiting former family graves can be an emotional experience, discovering information on older generations can instil an intimate re-union with your past as well as filling another line in the family tree. In short, they are worth locating.

However, as with many other records, they are very dependent on family circumstance and will usually only exist for a minority. Gravestones, which are likely to last, e.g. inscribed stone gravestones, required payment for a mason and this was not always possible for poorer families. Many graves of the poor were marked only with crude stones, or with wooden markers, which have long ago disappeared. This is not an uncommon feature in Galway graveyards, as is evident in Roscam and Bushypark churchyards on the outskirts of Galway City. Even where stone gravestones were used, in some areas the local stone did not weather well and inscriptions have disappeared.

Finding family burial sites can be an arduous task, however, as some 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Galway graveyards gradually succumb to the effects of time and fade from memory itself. Typical of such sites are those attached to once private landed

gentry homes as at Ballynahinch House and Clifden Castle in Connemara. Other burial sites, such as Tirellan (now Castletown) Cemetery, once prominent among the rolling fields beside the River Corrib on the eastern outskirts of Galway City, now find near exclusion as urbanity rushes to fill surrounding green spaces with concrete. Meanwhile, the city's main municipal cemetery at Bohermore has a registry book containing thousands of names of those interred since it opened in 1882.

Yet, as civil registration of deaths in Ireland only commenced in 1864, and there is a dearth of church burial records before that period (see Chapter 6), deciphering old headstones can be a valuable, and sometimes only, aid to expanding the family tree in the short as well as long term. Pinpointing the specific graveyard is only a start, however. Gravestone inscriptions may now be illegible, or perhaps the stone itself has fallen and lies buried under vegetation. Such a scenario exists in Forthill Cemetery beside Galway City harbour where some gravestones lie under a grass surface. These stones are also a sad commentary of the past when viewed in the once prevalent Children's Burial Grounds, (more than 420 in County Galway according to Deirdre Crombie in *Journal of the Galway Archaeological & Historical Society*, Vol. 41, 1987-1988) where unbaptised children were simply buried secretly in special ancient sites sometimes known as Killeens. An example of a Killeen is beside the

Ballybrit race track where the famous Galway Races are held. Difficulties in the Galway context occur also to non-Irish speakers when inscriptions in the native language appeared during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and further complications arose during the 1960s with the Anglicisation of that same Irish script.

Meanwhile, the closure and subsequent collapse into ruins of small rural Protestant churches in particular have lessened the number of memorials and other testaments in stone surviving on the County Galway landscape. It should be noted that Catholics and Protestants were often buried in the same graveyard, which sometimes saw a mixture of Presbyterians and Methodists interred also.



However, Galway County Council, in conjunction with selected local community groups, is piloting a digital recording of graveyard memorials in the county. Many Galway graveyards have now been surveyed, and the results published in various formats. The organisation Gaeltacht i gCéin has been particularly active in indexing gravestones on the many islands off South Connemara (officially known as Ceanntar na n-Oileán - The District of the Islands). In the north eastern section of the county, Galway County Council in conjunction with Galway Rural Development and Glenamaddy Community Development, launched the North East Galway Graveyards Digital Mapping Project in November, 2009. This project will digitally map, transcribe and photograph the memorials of fifteen graveyards in Glenamaddy, Williamstown, Glinsk, Dunmore, Ballygar, Newbridge and Moylough, thus underlying the important ongoing graveyard surveying work being carried out in the county. For further updates, log on to [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

An important electronic source is the Eneclann series of Irish Memorial Inscriptions Vol. 1, *Memorials of the Dead - Counties Galway and Mayo* edited by Ian Cantwell on CD-ROM (ISBN 0-9537557-4-6). In all, 128 graveyards have been included, with 3,000 memorials up to 1901 and over 8,000 names mentioned in the western seaboard area of the province of Connacht, covering roughly the area west of a line from Galway City running directly north to Castlebar/Ballina. This CD is available from [www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie) and copies are available in libraries, including the Information Desk in the JHL, as an electronic resource 919.34171 MEM.

Galway Family History Society West (See Chapter 14) has also conducted surveys of graveyards as part of their FAS Local Training Initiative. The gravestone inscriptions were computerised for each graveyard, and also, three journals were produced, i.e. *Memorial Inscriptions of Castlegar Graveyards; Memorial Inscriptions and Related History of Kiltullagh, Killimordaly and Esker Graveyards; and Forthill Graveyard*. (See below). The graveyards within each civil parish in the county for which abstracts are available from this source are below:



| <b>Civil Parish:</b>           | <b>Graveyard(s) surveyed</b>                                                                            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Abbeyknockmoy:</b>          | Abbey R.C., Abbeyknockmoy, Moore, New Cemetery Abbeyknockmoy, Old Abbey, Tobair Phadraig.               |
| <b>Annaghdown:</b>             | St. Brendan's, Cregg Old, Cregg New, St. Brendan's Abbey, Corrandulla.                                  |
| <b>Aran Islands:</b>           | Aran Cenopaths, Cill Ronáin, Cill Éinne, Kilmurvey, Na Seacht dTeampaill, Inishmean New, Cill Chiarain. |
| <b>Ardrahan:</b>               | Ardrahan, Labane, Lydican.                                                                              |
| <b>Athenry:</b>                | Athenry Dominican Priory, Athenry New, Templemoyle.                                                     |
| <b>Ballinsloe:</b>             | Kilkerrin.                                                                                              |
| <b>Ballinderreen:</b>          | Drumacoo, Foynes, Killeenavara.                                                                         |
| <b>Ballynakill/Letterfrack</b> | Barnogues, Letterfrack                                                                                  |
| <b>Tullycross:</b>             | Industrial School.                                                                                      |
| <b>Ballyconneely:</b>          | Ballyconneely Old, Ballyconneely New.                                                                   |
| <b>Ballinacourty:</b>          | Ballinacourty Old, Ballinacourty New.                                                                   |
| <b>Caherlistrane:</b>          | Donaghpatrick Old, Donaghpatrick New, Killcoona (Headford), Abbeytown.                                  |
| <b>Carna:</b>                  | Kilkieran Old, Kilkieran New.                                                                           |
| <b>Carraroe:</b>               | Báradaraigh.                                                                                            |
| <b>Castlegar:</b>              | Ballybrit, Carrowbrowne, Castlegar, Killeen, Menlo, Tirellan/Castlelawn, Roscam, St. James (Mervue).    |
| <b>Claregalway:</b>            | Claregalway Old, Claregalway New, Claregalway Abbey, Waterdale.                                         |
| <b>Clarenbridge:</b>           | Clarenbridge.                                                                                           |
| <b>Clifden:</b>                | Ardbear, Clifden Church, Clifden Town, Errislannan Manor, Franciscan Brothers,                          |

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Clonbur:</b>              | Kill.                           |
| <b>Craughwell:</b>           | Rosshill.                       |
| <b>Cummer:</b>               | Killogilleen.                   |
|                              | Belclare, Claretuam, Kilmoylan, |
|                              | Cummer, Killower, Corofin       |
|                              | Churchyard, Cummer              |
|                              | Monastery.                      |
| <b>Dunmore:</b>              | Grange/Town Cemetery, Chapel    |
|                              | Street/Old, Addergoole/         |
|                              | Garrafrauns, Addergoole/        |
|                              | Garrafrauns Old, Kiltevna,      |
|                              | Augustinian Abbey.              |
| <b>Galway City:</b>          | Forthill, Methodist, New        |
|                              | Cemetery Bohermore, St.         |
|                              | James's Mervue, St. Nicholas's, |
|                              | The Abbey, Castletawn.          |
| <b>Gort:</b>                 | Kilmacduagh, Bully's Acre.      |
| <b>Headford:</b>             | Cargin Old and New, Kilcoona,   |
|                              | Killursa, Ross Errilly, Claran  |
|                              | Church, Cloughanover.           |
| <b>Inisbofin:</b>            | Inisbofin.                      |
| <b>Kilconly/Kilbannon:</b>   | Kilconly, Kilbannon.            |
| <b>Kilcummin/Oughterard:</b> | Barnaderry, Oughterard.         |
| <b>Killannin:</b>            | St. Collumkill's.               |
| <b>Killimordaly:</b>         | Killimordaly.                   |
| <b>Kiltullagh:</b>           | Esker, Kiltullagh, Kiltullagh   |
|                              | Graveyard.                      |
| <b>Killererin:</b>           | Killererin Old, Killererin New, |
|                              | Crevaghbawn, Carrownamona       |
|                              | Tuam.                           |
| <b>Kinvara:</b>              | Doorús Old, Doorús New,         |
|                              | Mount Cross Old, Mount Cross    |
|                              | New, St. Coman's.               |
| <b>Knock/Inverin:</b>        | Relig An Chnuic, Relig Mhuiris  |
|                              | Bantaracht, Reilig Na bPáistí.  |
| <b>Lackagh:</b>              | Lackagh Old, Lackagh New.       |
| <b>Lettermore:</b>           | Bealadangan, Bealadangan        |
|                              | Children's Hill, Cuigéil, Sean  |
|                              | Bhaile, Trá Bhán, Eanach        |
|                              | Mheáin.                         |

|                    |                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Menlough:</b>   | Killascope.                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Milltown:</b>   | Liskeevy, Kilgeverin,<br>Ballyglass/Belmont,<br>Kilcreevanty.                                                                            |
| <b>Monivea:</b>    | Poolboy.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Moycullen:</b>  | Moycullen, Inchaguille.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Moylough:</b>   | Aghart, Eskerstephens,<br>Mountbellew, Moylough.                                                                                         |
| <b>Oranmore:</b>   | Kileelly, Killeeneen, Oranmore<br>Old, Oranmore New, Wilmount.                                                                           |
| <b>Rahoon:</b>     | Barna, Bushypark, Rahoon Old,<br>Rahoon.                                                                                                 |
| <b>Roundstone:</b> | Inishee.                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Rosmuc:</b>     | Turlough, Kilbricken.                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Spiddal:</b>    | Spiddal Old, Coileach.                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Tuam:</b>       | Cortoon, St. Mary's Tuam,<br>Tuam New, Temple Jarlath<br>Tuam, Mercy Convent,<br>Presentation Convent, St.<br>Jarlath's Tuam, Cloonfush. |

The Non-Catholic Graveyards within the above list are summarised below:

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Church of Ireland:</b> | Ahascragh, Athenry (St.<br>Mary's), Aughrim (St.<br>Matthew's), Clifden,<br>Errislannon, Galway City St.<br>Nicholas, Gort, Headford (St.<br>John the Baptist), Hydes<br>Private, Kilcooney, Kinvara,<br>Monivea, Oranmore,<br>Oughterard, Tuam (St. Mary's). |
| <b>Methodist:</b>         | Spiddal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

Note also that the East Galway Family History Society (See Chapter 14) has conducted surveys on some parish graveyards including the following: Abbeygormican, Aghyart, Ahascragh, Aughrim, Esker, Kilbeacanty, Kilclooney, Killascope, Killimor, Killora, Kilmacduagh, Mountbellew and Moylough.

As well as those listed in the *Journal of the Association of the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, 1895-1917*, (seven volumes, Dublin), lists of gravestone inscriptions in Galway graveyards also occur in various local publications such as the following:

- Abbeygormican:** Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.
- Abbey New Cemetery:** See Abbeyknockmoy Parish below.
- Abbeyknockmoy Parish:** Burial names and maps of the seven graveyards of the parish of Abbeyknockmoy (Abbey New Cemetery, Knockmoy Abbey, Moore, Tobar Phadraig, Monivea R.C., Monivea C.O.I. and Brooklodge) are listed in *Abbeyknockmoy A Time to Remember* (pp. 45-58) by Carol O'Regan and Audrey Lacey, 1996.
- Abbeytown:** See, *The White Canons – Abbeytown Cill-na-Manach 1260-1990*. A History of the Monastery of the White Canons and *other Historical Places in the District of Máigh Seola* by Jim Higgins and Anna McHugh published by the Crow's Rock Press for Donaghpatrick/Kilcoona Community Council Heritage Society, 1990. Appendix 1 contains a description of the existing funerary monuments (37) in Abbeytown graveyard.
- Aghyart:** Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.
- Ahascragh:** Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details

|                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Kilclooney:</b>                                                   | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Árainn (Inishmore):</b>                                           | Cenotaphs and Funerary Cairns are included in <i>Mementos of Mortality</i> by Tim Robinson, Folding Landscapes, 1991, with photographs, inscriptions and dates from 1811 to 1892                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Aughrim:</b>                                                      | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Ballybrit/Lisheen:</b>                                            | (Castlegar parish) (See Castlegar).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Brooklodge:</b>                                                   | (See Abbeyknockmoy Parish).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Carrowbrowne:</b>                                                 | (Castlegar Parish) (See Castlegar).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Castlegar:</b>                                                    | Comprehensive information on seven of the parish's eight graveyards on the eastern suburbs of Galway City are contained in <i>Memorial Inscriptions Castlegar Graveyards</i> , editor Marie Mannion and published by Galway Family History Society West as a FÁS project. They include Ballybrit/Lisheen, Carrowbrowne, Castlegar, Killeen, Menlo, Roscam/The Moor Graveyard, and Tirellan Graveyards. |
| <b>Craughwell Graveyards</b>                                         | (2): Chapple, R. M., <i>The Church of Prayers: gravestone inscriptions from the graveyard of Killora, Craughwell</i> , Galway, 1995 and <i>Cillogcillín: gravestone inscriptions from the graveyard of Killogilleen</i> , 1997, Galway.                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Cuigéil Graveyard, (Reilig Chuigéil), Lettermullen, Connemara</b> | Complete listing of burials including photographs of gravesites and some of the dead in <i>Tús Tuile</i> , edited by Delia Val                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Uí Chualáin. The valuable publication also includes a map site of this Connemara graveyard at the entrance to Gorumna Island as well as Griffith's Valuation of the district.

**Esker:**

Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details. See also Kiltullagh.

**Forthill Graveyard, Galway City:**

Forthill Graveyard, FÁS Galway Family History Project, (GFHSW) 1992, lists the stonemasons who provided gravestones, and also include descriptions of some of the tombs in one of Galway City's oldest graveyards. NLI 941 p 118 (4).

**Glenina Heights (Teampall) Graveyard,.**

Galway City: A catalogue of the funerary monuments (43) including site map as well as histories of the Joyces of Mervue House (Tara Hall) and the Lynch family of Renmore House in Galway City are contained in *St. James' Church and Cemetery, Gleninagh Heights, Galway*, edited by Jim Higgins, Crow's Rock Press, Galway, 1996 and also in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 3, 1995

**Kilbeacanty:**

Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.

**Kilclooney:**

Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.

**Killascobe:**

Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.

**Killeen:**

(Castlegar parish) (See Castlegar).

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Killimordaly:</b>   | See Kiltullagh.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Killimore:</b>      | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Killogilleen.</b>   | See Craughwell.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Killora:</b>        | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Kilmacduagh:</b>    | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14, and also <i>Irish Ancestor</i> , 7 (1) (1975), pp.26-34.                                                                                                |
| <b>Kiltullagh:</b>     | Details in <i>The Memorial Inscriptions and Related History of Kiltullagh, Killmoredaly and Esker Graveyards</i> , ed. Con Mulvey, and published by the Kiltullagh Community Council, 1998. |
| <b>Knockmoy Abbey:</b> | See Abbeyknockmoy Parish.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Lettermullen:</b>   | See Cuigéil.                                                                                                                                                                                |

*Journal of the Association of the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, 1895-1917*

|                                                      |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Menlo:</b>                                        | (Castlegar parish) (See Castlegar).                                                    |
| <b>Monivea C.o.I.:</b>                               | See Abbeyknockmoy Parish                                                               |
| <b>Monivea R.C.:</b>                                 | See Abbeyknockmoy Parish.                                                              |
| <b>Moore:</b>                                        | See Abbeyknockmoy Parish.                                                              |
| <b>Mountbellew:</b>                                  | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.                                |
| <b>Moylough:</b>                                     | Surveyed by EGFHS – see Chapter 14 for contact details.                                |
| <b>Roscam:</b>                                       | Graveyard, Galway City: (Castlegar Parish) (See Castlegar).                            |
| <b>St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway City:</b> | <i>Monuments of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway</i> by Jim Higgins and Susanne |



Heringklee, published 1992 by FÁS, contains the entire corpus of funerary monuments (419) and their inscriptions contained inside Galway City's most ancient church and in its adjoining graveyard. NLI Ir 9295 m 2

**Tirellan:**

(Castlegar parish) (See Castlegar)

**Tobar Phadraig:**

(See Abbeyknockmoy Parish)

***'The Landowners of Ireland' by U. H. Hussey De Burgh A useful guide for establishing the owners of estates of 500 acres and over. Published in 1878.***

## Chapter 8 Land and Related Records

Agriculture was the main occupation of the vast majority of people during the 18th and 19th centuries. Consequently, land was an important commodity. Records of occupants, tenants and owners of land are therefore common and are an important resource for family history. As explained in Chapter 3, the smallest land division is the townland. This loosely equated with the old Irish 'Ballybetagh' and varies in extent from a few acres to several thousand. As prehistory dawned into history, tribal lands became more extensive when Celtic clans coalesced into larger units. By the first millennium, about 140 tuatha or local chieftain territories became established. Eventually, western O'Connor high-kings (with opposition) faced the might of invading Anglo-Norman barons in the 12th and 13th centuries.

By 1235 de Burgo settlers were dividing what is now County Galway among receptive followers such as the de Berminghams who founded the township of Athenry, while further west on the east bank of the River Corrib, the de Burgo presence ensured the rapid consolidation of the settlement, known as Gaillimh, which, as noted, later metamorphosed to the 'Galway' of today.

In time, de Burgo invaders became Burkes or Bourkes and, in effect, became 'more Irish than the Irish' themselves as various wars, followed by forced plantations of English citizens on Irish landscapes during the 16th and 17th centuries, created common cause between the Normans and the Native Irish, and changed Irish history for ever. The town of Galway was ethnically cleansed and its citizens, including its famous fourteen merchant tribes, were replaced by adventurers from Gloucester (and even Liverpool) for a number of years following the Cromwellian siege of 1651/2.

However, in the rural areas, the main plantations involved

native Irish families who were forcibly transplanted from richer lands in the east of Ireland, following the Cromwellian wars. The Transplantation gave rise to the popular saying, 'To hell or to Connacht'. *The Transplantation to Connaught* published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin (1970) lists these planters, their original county and address and holding. Obviously, such changing of land ownership had to be noted and so began the first land or property recordings in Galway, which can help in tracing early histories of families on western landscapes.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the vast majority of the farming population lived as tenant farmers who rented their land directly or indirectly from major 'Estates' owned by the major land-owners. Many of these were not residents in Ireland and their estates were managed by estate agents. The process of estate management, including rent determination and collection, evictions and agitations, also created records which can be useful sources.

**Surviving Land Records** The chief surviving Galway land records are those created by the following surveys or institutions:

| Land Record/Survey               | Time Frame                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| The Civil Survey                 | 1654-56                    |
| Registry of Deeds                | 1708 -                     |
| Tithe Apportionment Survey       | 1823-37                    |
| Ordnance Survey Field Name Books | 1838-1840                  |
| Griffith's Primary Valuation     | 1851-1852                  |
| Encumbered Estates Court         | 1849-1880                  |
| Land Commission                  | 1881 -                     |
| Congested Districts Board        | 1891 -                     |
| Land Registry                    | 1892 -                     |
| Estate Records                   | All periods for some areas |

The background and usefulness of each of these are described below.

## Civil Survey of 1654 – 56

This survey was concerned with the transfer of the lands confiscated by the English authorities in the aftermath of the 1641 rebellion when the native Irish and Normans were defeated by the English under Oliver Cromwell. It notes the denomination of land (information on buildings, acreage, etc.), and most important from the family researcher's viewpoint, the names of the former proprietors and new owners. The Civil Survey is available in hardcopy in the National Library of Ireland and other libraries and also from the LDS (civil survey film no. 973122).

A typical example is the information extracted on the 15th February, 1657 from Cromwell's Roll, No. 4, Roll's Office by Vincent Godkin, Surveyor-General, which deals with the forfeited lands, both in the Liberties and in the County of the Town of Galway. This entire extract is published in Appendices Nos. VI and VII in JH, pp. xxxiv – xlii. It should be noted also that almost similar information is contained in the Book of Survey and Distribution compiled about 1730 listing former owners of land in 1641 and the new grantees of 1668-8 including acreage involved. This important source of family research is also in the NLI and has been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

**Registry of Deeds 1708** -A deed is a binding legal document in the form of a written agreement between two or more parties or, more rarely, an undertaking by one individual. Most deeds relate to leasing, sale, conveyance or mortgage transactions involving land or property. A typical deed of land transfer will contain the names of the buyer and seller, and often, specify their relationship as a basis of identification. They may also specify names of neighbouring land-owners as a means of identifying the land involved, and also the names of witnesses and, on some occasions, tenants on the land. They are therefore a rich resource of information.

From 1708 onwards, such deeds had to be lodged in the repository known as the Registry of Deeds in Dublin - See Chapter 14. As most deeds in the 18th century concerned large properties, they were mostly used by the Protestant community.

Deeds are indexed in two ways: A Grantors' Index (i.e. the names of those selling or leasing and Land Index (names of the properties involved). The Grantors' Index is bound in volumes by initial letter of surname and a time frame such as A 1708-1729. Although they are notoriously difficult to use, they are a rich source of information on family relationships.

As there is no Grantees' Index (i.e. those receiving land), the Land Index can be used. To do so, the location of an ancestor's land-holding must be known. As some deeds do not indicate a barony, the 'no barony' books for the time frame you are researching should also be checked.

### **Tithe Applotment Survey 1823 - 37**

Tithes were taxes paid by users of agricultural holdings for the upkeep of clergymen of the Established Church, which was the Church of Ireland. Tithes were paid within each parish, and all denominations were obliged to pay. As only one tenth of the population was Church of Ireland, these were most unpopular taxes. They became particularly unpopular following the Composition Act of 1823, which specified that payment must be made in cash rather than in kind, i.e. through farm products with which they had previously been paid. To calculate the cash payment, all agricultural land was surveyed and apploted (i.e. valued for tax purposes) to determine the payment due by each land occupier. This survey was carried out between 1823-1837 and the results were published in Tithe Applotment Books for each parish. They record, for almost every parish, the occupiers' names, the extent of land held and the sum payable in tithe. Only the householder's name is specified. The surnames of all of these land-holders are indexed in the NLI's 'Index of Surnames'.

Defaulting on tithe payments became a widespread occurrence during the mid 19th century and lists of such defaulters were compiled in some areas, but not in County Galway. As a result of the widespread opposition, tithes were reduced by a quarter by 1838 and were abolished in 1869.

These records are important research tools for researching ancestors because they are one of the first registers of landholders or occupiers. Microfilm copies of the books are in

the NLI, NAI, and the LDS Family History Society Library, while in Galway printouts from microfilm are also available at the Local History Section, GCL. The NLI also has a guide on film to the Books including an alphabetical index to parishes, the diocese and county in which each parish is situated, the date of the original Tithe Book and the microfilm number, as well as a list of parishes for which Books were not received. See page 83.

### **Ordnance Field Name Books 1838 - 1840**

The Ordnance Survey Field Name Books are a large set of notebooks compiled by official ordnance surveyors working on Griffith's Valuation under the direction of John O'Donovan during 1838-40. They are arranged by civil parish and list, and although slight variations occur, each townland is listed in alphabetical order, with their position within the parish, proprietor's name and other data provided.

***A page from the Tithe Applotments showing the names of occupiers in the townland of Knockanarra, in the civil parish of Templetogether. See page 82.***

The original transcripts are stored in the National Library, Dublin, and on microfilm at Galway County Libraries, which has also transcribed the Name Books, the book/film reference numbers are as follows:

#### **Book Number:**

OS Book No. 55  
OS Book No. 56  
OS Book No. 57  
OS Book No. 58  
OS Book No. 59  
OS Book No. 60  
OS Book No. 61  
OS Book No. 62  
OS Book No. 63  
OS Book No. 64  
OS Book No. 65

#### **Townlands:**

Abbeygormacan – Aughrim  
Ballinahalla – Ballynakill  
Ballynakill – Clonberne  
Clonfert – Drumatemple  
Dunamon – Kilcolgan  
Kilconickny to Kilcammin  
Kilgerril – Killeeneen  
Killerrin – Kilmeen  
Kilmoylan – Loughrea  
Moycullen – Oranmore  
Rahoon - Tynagh

Transcripts on microfilm - NLI Pos. 4121-3

Typescripts (hardcopy) - NLI Ir. 92942 O3

For further information, check

<http://www.galway.ie/en/Services/Library/Onlineresources/>

### **Griffith's Primary Valuation 1851-52**

This resource also derives from a land survey carried out for tax purposes. The *General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland*, also known, Griffith's Valuation, or the Primary Valuation, was a detailed survey carried out between 1847 and 1864 to calculate the valuation of each holding (both urban and rural) in order to determine liability to pay a tax for the support of the poor, or a Poor Rate. This tax was collected within Poor Law Unions - See Chapter 3. It is really the only mid-19th century inventory which relates people (over a million are named) with the property they occupied. It is available for every parish and townland in Ireland. As the 1851 census data has been destroyed, Griffith's Valuation is a partial but important substitute.

The data included for each holding includes a map reference, name of occupier, description of the holding, and most important from the state's view, the rateable value of the property. It is also important because it records the surviving heads of households after the Great Famine (1845-47). The Galway valuation was compiled between 1853 and 1856.

As noted above, this was the Primary Valuation, and further valuations have been conducted ever since indicating changes of ownership and land improvement, etc. These can be inspected in the 'Cancelled Land Books', as well as 'Current Land Books' at the Valuation Office in Dublin (See Chapter 14). In addition to the core information, the process of conducting the survey created a variety of manuscript records, and these may be consulted in the National Archives (See Chapter 14). These contain the notes of the surveyors on the buildings and land they surveyed.

Griffith's Valuation can be consulted free on the web on several sites including [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) and at the Irish Family History Foundation website [www.brsgenealogy.com](http://www.brsgenealogy.com) It is also on

microfiche in the NLI. A county-by-county guide is available for consultation in the Genealogy Service area and in the NLI Reading Room. While Griffith's Valuation can be consulted in the GCL, Valuation Lists from 1897 – 1931 compiled by Galway County Council pertaining to rural districts in the county are also held by Galway County Libraries and Archives. The volumes are arranged by Electoral Divisions in the various rural districts, recording for each townland within the division, details such as occupiers, immediate lessors, area, and the rateable annual valuation of lands and buildings.

As well, the JHLSC has sets of reports of each Irish county available on microfiche in the Microform room 333.332 GEN. It is important to use the Townlands Index 914.15 (083) to establish the name of the civil parish and Poor Law Union in which the townland was situated before looking up Griffith's. A searchable index to the surnames contained in Griffith's is available on CD-Rom from the Information Desk 929.39415 FAM.

Note: Because of the significance of the Tithe Applotment Books and Griffith's Valuation, the NLI has compiled an Index of Surnames, which is most useful in many ways to the family history researcher. If, for instance, you know the county of origin of your ancestor but not his/her place of residence, this Index will help pinpoint the Civil Parishes in which persons of that surname lived. Each Index of Surnames contains a map of the Baronies and Civil Parishes in each county and the relevant Catholic parishes as well as an alphabetical listing of the surnames recorded in each Barony and Civil Parish in the county in question.

### **Encumbered Estates 1849-1880**

During the Great Famine (1845-1850), death and destitution were visited on the more impoverished sections of the Irish population (c. eight million in 1841 versus only five million today). As a result, many of the landed gentry, who were dependent on rental income from tenants who died, emigrated or were unable to pay, thus becoming insolvent (or 'encumbered') in the mid and late 19th century. Under the



Encumbered Estates Act of 1849, the Encumbered Estates Court (later the Landed Estates Court) was established to oversee the sale or transfer of the estates (c. 3,000) by these insolvent (encumbered) owners.

Documents relating to the estates auctioned by the courts are held in the NAI, and some list the tenants on the estates being sold. Because of the prevalence of encumbered estates in Galway county in the 19th century, these documents can be of special importance to the Galway family history researcher. The Martin estate in Connemara was one of the largest of these estates.

### **The Land Commission 1881 -**

Dissension rather than destitution was evident in the establishing of the Land Commission in 1881. During the latter half of the 19th century there was a widespread and successful campaign for reform of tenancy laws, and for regulation of rents. The Land Commission was initially set up to arbitrate in claims of unjust rents made by tenants against their landlords. As the laws, and the economic climate, changed to support transfer of ownership to tenants, the Land Commission was involved in helping tenants to buy their holding by way of loans. While the NLI holds card indexes noting vendors and estates, the Land Commission holds the most land records, but is still not directly accessible to the family history researcher. Edward Keane of the NLI researched material from 9,343 Irish estates and compiled a card index (available on open access at the NLI). It comprises: (a) 'Topographical Index' by county, barony and vendor's name (b) 'Name Index' by vendor's name, estate location and estate number. Using the estate number, a description of the estate documents can be found in bound volumes. The most useful genealogical information is the tenant rental lists. The Land Commission is in the same building as the NAI, but an appointment must be made to access the records.

### **Congested Districts Board 1891 -**

This was established in 1891 to provide assistance to disadvantaged areas with high populations. The Congested Districts Boards did Trojan work especially along the

Connemara coastline in County Galway in endeavouring to bring economic stability to outlying districts. It was responsible for the redistribution of land and the relocation of tenants from untenable land. It also developed local industries, agriculture and fisheries. The Reports of the Congested Districts Board contain accounts of their work including reference to persons assisted, etc. Copies of these reports are in the NLI and in other libraries. Administration records, of interest to the family history researcher, are held in the NAI, but most fall again under the aegis of the Land Commission.

### **The Land Registry 1892 -**

The Land Registry was established in 1892 and from that year all titles to land, and transfers of land, were and are compulsorily registered. It took over the role that was previously (but incompletely) filled by the Registry of Deeds. Information on land ownership, dates of transfer, etc., are entered in numbered folios, which also contain the relevant maps showing the holdings. Information can be accessed either by a landholder's name or a placename index - See Chapter 14.

### **Estate Records**

Estate records are usually a mix of legal papers, tenant lists, rent rolls, related correspondence and other documents relating to the management of large estates of land, which were common in Ireland until the late 19th century.

The administration of these estates produced a large quantity of useful records, including:

#### ***Leases:***

which give the names of larger tenants and sometimes other details. Most small tenants would not have a formal legal agreement for their holding.

#### ***Rent rolls or Rentals:***

showing the rent amount and date of payment. These often do not include information on the smallest tenants, most of whom had no right of tenure, and/or may have been subtenants of the larger tenants or middlemen.

#### ***Maps:***

which may show the holding of individual tenants.

***Wages' books:***

in which will be found the names of estate labourers, household servants and gardeners who may not appear as tenants. Where they exist, however, they may be useful to the family researcher, because they can supply information on the landowners, agents and tenants within an area.

In order to use such files, you need to know the landlord involved. Useful ways of identifying the landlord of a landholding include the various works of Richard Hayes, especially his *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation* (Boston, 1965). The Griffith Valuation (see above) can also provide information on landlords in the column 'Immediate Lessor' although this is often a 'middleman' rather than the ultimate landowner.

As well as printed sources, land information can also be sourced electronically from various websites, with one of the most relevant being [www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie) It was developed by the Moore Institute for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the National University of Ireland, Galway. This database is a comprehensive and integrated resource guide to landed estates and gentry houses in Galway and surrounding counties from c. 1700 – 1914. The data base refers to 1,500 houses and 1,700 families. It allows searching by Estate, Family or House name. In addition, there is a simple search facility allowing the user to input words, (e.g. placenames) which might appear in the house or estate descriptions.

While Local Studies' departments of the relevant Public Library services will have copies of many of the printed sources, some of these sources are available also electronically through providers such as [www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie) Excellent locally-held information on landed estates can also be sourced at [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) maintained by the Library Council of Ireland. The GCL also holds copies of the rentals of several County Galway estates, and further rentals are in the archival holdings of the JHLSC which can be accessed by permission, which can be sought by contacting

specialcollections@nuigalway.ie in advance. Further information on estates and land is included in the following diverse information sources:

**Ahascragh/Caltra Parish.**

Valuations and Tenements of. 1855 in '*The History of Ahascragh and Caltra*' Ed. Marty Gilmore and Mattie Kilroy.

**Aughnish Estates.**

Information is in the chapter, 'Land and Tenants of Aughnish' in '*The Story of Aughnish*' by Rose Glynn, 2002.

**Bellew Estate.**

Estate book, 1679-1775. NLI Mss. 9200. See also Chapter 12.

**Blakes of Ballyglunin/French of Rahasane Papers.**

Material in JHLSC include papers relating to the Blake family of Ballyglunin and the French family of Rahasane referring to properties in counties Galway, Cork and Dublin. They cover dates 1770-1830 and consist of 124 items; Blake papers, M.6936, PROI.

**Blake Knox, Francis.**

1845-66, covering townlands in Annaghdown, Kilmacduagh and Kilmoylan. NLI Ms. 3007

**Blakes, Grahams and Thomsons of Renvyle.**

Information is contained in 'Land Ownership in 1855' chapter in '*Portrait of a Parish, Ballynakill, Connemara*', by Tully Cross Guild, Irish Countrywomen's Association, 1985.

**Browne, Col. John.**

National Library of Ireland, microfilm No. 940 gives details of sales c.1778 of Col. Browne estates mostly in the Connemara area.

**Burke, Rental of the Lands of William and Thomas H.**

Bound volume in JHLSC containing a rental of the lands of William and Thomas H Burke in County Galway, containing the rental by townland, Ordnance Survey reference, name of tenant, the immediate leaser, a description of the property, the area and

the rateable annual valuation. Covering Dates: Later 19th century. Collection size: 39 ff. Collection code: LE28. Finding aids: Small Collections Index.

**Caltra Parish** -see Ahascragh

**Clanmorris (Bingham) Rentals in County Galway.**

See article by Mary P. Donnellan in *Galway Roots*, Vol. V, 1998.

**Claregalway Parish Estates.**

Information on the landlords and their estates, including lessors of land, in the parish of Claregalway is included in '*Claregalway Parish History 750 years*', published by Claregalway Historical and Cultural Society, 1999.

**Connemara after the Famine.**

'*Journal of a survey of the Martin Estate, 1853*' by Thomas Colville Scott, Lillyput Press, 1995.

**Daly family of Dunsandle.**

Papers relating to the properties involved. Mainly deeds in the JHLSC relating to the management of the properties of the Daly family in Dunsandle, County Galway covering the dates 1751 – 1945. Collection size: 4 boxes. Collection code: LE13.

**Dillons, Barons of Clonbrock, Estate and Rentals.**

Check National Library Manuscripts 19501, 19585-19616, 22008-9, for townlands in East Galway involving rentals, tenant records and maps. Much information is also contained in '*A History of Fohenagh*' by Tony O'Gorman including also land ownership changes between 1641-1670 and land ownership in the 18th and 19th centuries in this area of East Galway.

**Eyre Family Deeds.**

Deeds of lease and other materials in JHLSC relating to the management of the property of the Eyre family in Galway in the 18th and 19th centuries. Covering Dates: 1709-1852. Collection size: 4 boxes. Collection code: LE4.

**Frenchs of central Galway.**

The life of Robert French (1716 – 1779) of Monivea and the

running of his estates is contained in 'A Galway Gentleman in the Age of Improvement' by Denis A. Cronin, Maynooth Studies in Local History, 1995.

***Extracted from 'The Dispossessed Landowners of Ireland, 1664'. Irish Genealogist Vol. 4 (4) P. 275 -***

An article on the landowners of Ireland who lost their land as a result of the Cromwell settlement. It includes a listing of heads of families, submitted to the Lord Lieutenant to make recommendation for reinstatement.

**Gregory Estate Maps.**

Leather folder in the JHLSC containing 16 six-inch Ordinance Survey maps of Sir William Gregory of Coole Park. Covering dates: 1841. Collection size: 16 items. Collection code: LE30.

**Kelly and D'Arcy Deeds relating to the Parish of Kilkerrin.**

Five deeds in JHLSC relating to the Fidaun lands in the parish of Kilkerrin in East Galway, originally held by the Kellys, but bought by the D'Arcy family of New Forest in the 1850s. Covering dates: 1804 – 1858. Collection size: 5 items. Collection Code: LE15.

**Kirwan family of Castle Hacket, Tuam, County Galway.**

This collection in the JHLSC relates mainly to the legal and estate management of the Kirwan family in North Galway. Covering dates: 1765 – 1917. Collection size: 23 items. Collection code: LE8.

**Kiltullagh/Killimordaly Parish Land Transfers in the 17th century.**

Article on land ownerships in 1641 and 1660 in above Parish by Adrian Martyn is contained in 'Kiltullagh Killimordaly as the Centuries Passed' edited by Kieran Jordan, published by Killtullagh/Killmordaly Historical Society, 2000.

**Lackagh/Turloughmore Landlords and Tenants.**

Information related to landlord families Blakes, Kirwans,

Brownes, Meldons, and Bodkins in the Lackagh/Turloughmore Parish areas, including tenants, is contained in '*In Their Own Words, The Parish of Lackagh – Turloughmore*', edited by Liz Blackmore, John Cronin, Dónal Ferrie and Bríd Higgins, published by Lackagh Museum Committee, 2001.

**Martyn 'Kingdom', including other Connemara Estates.**

An index for other Connemara estates in '*The Story of Connemara*' by Patricia Kilroy, Dublin, 1989

**O'Connor Donelan Papers of Sylane, Tuam, County Galway.**

The papers in the JHLSC cover the legal dealings of the family and the management of the various lands. Covering dates: 1698 – 1930. Collection size: 4 boxes. Collection code: LE10.

**'Rentals and Communities in Galway in the Immediate Aftermath of the Famine'.**

Many Galway family properties are mentioned in this article by Pádraic G. Lane in Vol. 59 (2007) *JGAHS*.

**Shee Rent Rolls, Dunmore.**

Article by Mary P. Donnellan in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996 covering approximately the same period 1829 – 1859, give an intriguing glimpse on the management of this vast estate with a vast number of names listed each year for each townland.

**St. George Estate in Headford.**

NLI (microfilm) 5483 lists St. George tenants in Headford town and surrounding districts. Rent Roll of the Estate of Richard St. George Mansergh St. George, (1775) by Charles Frizell, now in GCL - this MSS contains details of the denominations, valuation, description of the lands as well as names of tenants and occupiers.

**St. George Estates at Kilcolgan.**

Much information on St. George estate at Kilcolgan, c. 27,000 acres, on the east shores of Galway Bay is contained in 'Tyrone House' article by Gordon St. George Mark in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society*, Vol. XIX Nos. 3 and 4, July – December, 1976.

### **Trench Estate.**

NLI Manuscript 2577 is an estate rental 1840-50 covering townlands in central and east Galway.

### **Tynagh Landownership in 1876.**

Information contained in 'Tynagh Millennium Review' by Tynagh and District Development Society Ltd. – also Tithe and Griffith's Valuation data.

### **Wade Papers of Aughrim.**

Letters in the JHLSC relating to the management of the lands of the Wade family around Aughrim in East Galway in the early 1880s. Covering dates: 1881-3. Collection size: 104 items. Collection code: LE14.

### **Wilson-Lynch Papers of Renmore, Galway City.**

These papers in the JHLSC relate to the management of various estates in County Clare as well as Renmore on the outskirts of Galway City. The material includes rentals, labourers' wages, etc. Covering dates: 1800-1920. Collection size: 14 boxes. Collection code: LE6; (See Geraldine Curtin's article - *Galway Roots*, Vol. V, 1998).

### **Further information**

#### ***Publications:***

Further information on Galway land tenure may also be gleaned from the following printed sources:

Barkley, John Trevor, *Report on the purchase and occupation of landed property in Connaught, with estimate of present value*. London, Trelauney Saunders, 1850.

Dooley, Terence, *The Big Houses and Landed Estates of Ireland: A Research Guide*, Maynooth Research Guides in Local History series, 2007.

Duggan, Eugene, *The Ploughman on the Pound Note* 2004, which deals with farming politics in County Galway.

*General Valuation of Ireland, County Galway, 1850*. Dublin, H.M.S.O., 1850.



*General Valuation of rateable property in Ireland County of Galway, Union of Tuam.* Printed by Alexander Thom for H.M.S.O, 1855, Dublin.

Lane, Pádraig G., 'The General Impact of the Encumbered Estates Act of 1849 on Counties Galway and Mayo', *JGAHS*, Vol. 33, 1972; 'The Impact of the Encumbered Estates Court on Landowners of Galway and Mayo', *JGAHS*, Vol. 38, 1981-2; 'Purchasers of Land in Counties Galway and Mayo in the Encumbered Estates Court, 1849-1958', *JGAHS*, Vol. 43, 1991; 'Some Galway and Mayo Landlords of the mid-nineteenth century', *JGAHS*, Vol. 45, 1993.

Nolan, J. P. "The references for political change of property, Co. Galway" in *JGAHS*, Vol. 111 (1903-4), pp. 37-43.

Ó Bric, Breandán, '*Galway Townsmen as the Owners of Land in Connacht, 1585-1641*', (M.A. Thesis, NUIG, 1974).

Tallon, Geraldine, '*Court of Claims – Submissions and Evidence, 1663*', Irish Manuscript Commission, 2007. This book is an essential guide to landownership in Ireland in the first half of the 17th century.

Villiers-Tuthill, Kathleen, '*Beyond the Twelve Bens – A History of Clifden District, 1860-1923*', (1986) especially Chapter VI, 'Landed families of West Connemara'.

### **Database:**

The National University of Ireland Galway, 'Connacht Landed Estates Project' is a valuable source for the researcher. It includes transcripts from the Landed Estates Board, providing vital information about the property of an ancestor. - see [www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie)

**Kelly (Lisduff)** - In 1752 Peter Browne of Westport (1730-1780) married Elizabeth Kelly, only child of Denis Kelly, Chief Justice of Jamaica, from whom the Brownes inherited the Lisduff estate, parish of Tynagh, barony of Longford, Co Galway and sugar plantations in Jamaica. The Westport Estate Papers include a variety of papers

dated 1723-1758 about property belonging to Denis Kelly in Jamaica and at Lisduff, Co Galway, acquired from his brother Edmond Kelly and also early 19th century rentals of the Lisduff estate. The estate was enlarged by Denis Kelly's purchase of the lands of Drimatubber [Drumatober] and Garrancarf from the Countess of Kildare and others in 1749 and of the lands of Cormickoge from John Burke in 1750. Some of the earliest title deeds relate to the Hogan lands of Ballagh or Levallagh, barony of Longford, which were conveyed to Denis Kelly by John Prendergast on 19 Aug 1752. The 2nd Marquess of Sligo sold the estate to William Burke of Ballydugan, near Loughrea, Co Galway, in the late 1820s, after an exchange with Lord Clanricarde of a small part of the estate for some islands off the west coast, including Inishboffin. John William Browne, solicitor, of Dublin and Mount Kelly was agent for the Marquess's Galway estate in the early 19th century.

***An entry from the NUI Galway 'Connacht Landed Estates Project' at [www.landedestates.nuigalway.ie](http://www.landedestates.nuigalway.ie)***

***A will abstract from Volume III of 'Registry of Deeds in Dublin - Abstracts of Wills' edited by P.B. Eustace and E.Ellis (Manuscripts Commission Dublin 1984).***

## Chapter 9 Wills, Administration and Marriage Licences

Wills, with their testamentary importance of dividing assets of the deceased among those left behind, can be essential sources of family information. In the Galway context, and for obvious reasons, wills are usually used within families with property, which excludes much of the native population. It is only in later years that the majority of the public took to making wills. This is a pity, because wills by their very nature offer intimate details of a family history at a major point in its evolution, when one generation transfers possessions to other relations. An important benefit of wills is that they often specify relationships, which may be difficult to follow from other records, e.g. 'I leave to my cousin, my sister's child, etc. Thus, part of a family tree is conveniently knitted together amid the legal terminology.

A little knowledge of the main terms of the process is necessary for the family researcher to work in this specific field. The maker of the will, the deceased, is called the Testator who indicates in the will document how his/her assets are to be dispersed. He/she usually appoints a suitable person, the Executor, to ensure that his/her last wishes are carried out as specified. For final legal satisfaction, the will then must be proven in a Probate Court. This court also ensures that if a person dies intestate, i.e. without making a will, or if the will is inoperable for other reasons (commonly because the executor is also deceased) an Administration takes place. This involves the court appointing an Administrator to carry out the wishes of the court, who enters an Administration Bond as a surety of completion.

Not surprisingly, original wills and administration records are the most important probate documents in proving ownership of assets or property. Sadly, as with other important documents of

family research potential, most were lost in the Public Record Office fire in 1922, which was Ireland's most destructive fire from the point of view of its genealogy. Those surviving are stored in various archives, including private collections but particularly in the National Archives.

The process of Will Probate and archiving has also created other records, which are of potential value. These include Abstracts, which contain the basic details of certain wills abstracted for various reasons; and also Indexes of wills, which were created to assist in finding wills including those destroyed. These often provide names, residence and date of death of each testator.

Meanwhile, the will itself, if it survives, is a mine of information providing the name, address and occupation of the testator; the name(s) of the executor(s); the names of the witnesses (can be relations); the names of the beneficiaries; the date of the will and that of the probate. As well, more family information can be gleaned as the beneficiaries can often extend outside the immediate family household leading to cousins and other in-laws, thus extending the family tree even further. They can also indicate the social standing of the family as well as give an estimation of its wealth and properties at a particular time in its history.

### **Pre and Post 1858 Wills**

If you wish to research wills in the hope of adding new information to your Galway family tree, 1858 is a crucial date in Irish testamentary affairs because in that year fundamental changes occurred in the processing of wills. Prior to this date, Probate administration was invested in the Church of Ireland, the official state church of the nation.

### **Consistorial or Diocesan Courts**

A binary system was in use prior to 1858 where a Consistorial Court also known as a Diocesan Court based on the diocese was used to prove wills where the property referred to was within the diocese.

### ***Church of Ireland Dioceses***

The Church of Ireland dioceses which cover County Galway

include: Tuam, which hosts the parishes of Tuam, Galway and Omev (Clifden); Clonfert containing Aughrim and Clonfert Cathedral; Diocese of Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh and portion of Elphin, all of which had such courts.

While original Galway Consistorial Court material was destroyed in the 1922 PRO fire, diocesan Indexes for the Tuam Diocese survive for certain years: 1648-1858 in NAI (damaged) and 1621-1821 in RIA, Ms. 24.D.16. An index to Clonfert Wills 1663-1857 was published as a supplement to *'The Irish Ancestor'* Vol. II No. 2, 1970 - See below. Diocesan Administration Bond Indexes for Tuam, 1692-1857 are also in the NAI. Microfilm copies of these Indexes are also available in the NLI.

Another source for locating ancestors in Consistorial wills is *'Indexes to Irish Wills'* a series of five volumes edited by Gertrude Thrift (London: W.P.W. Phillimore, 1909-20 and reprinted as a combined volume by the Genealogical Publishing Company 1970). However the only consistorial wills for Galway that are indexed in these volumes are that of Killaloe and Kilfenora for the period 1653-1800.

***An extract from Clonfert Wills 1663-1857 which was published as a supplement to 'The Irish Ancestor' - See above.***

### **Prerogative Court**

However, if the property referred to within a will was located in two or more dioceses with a value over £5 in the second one, the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Armagh was needed to validate the will.

Prerogative will indexes are arranged alphabetically starting with the testator's name, probate date, etc., and are in two series, up to 1810, and from 1811 to 1857. The first series has been published in *Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland 1538-1810*, edited by Sir Arthur Vicars, 1897 (Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967). Meanwhile, a combined Index of these wills with ancillary

documents for the period 1595-1858, alphabetically arranged, is in the NAI.

***An extract from the 'Index to Prerogative Wills 1538-1810'***

***See above.***

In 1857, with the abolition of these church-based courts, a Principal Registry for proving wills and administrations involving a civil Probate court system replaced the Prerogative Courts. In all, eleven District Registries replaced the more widespread diocesan courts. Galway wills are now proved in the District Registry of Tuam, and surviving records are kept in the NAI.

As well, remaining wills and ancillary records of the Consistorial and Prerogative Courts were collected by the PRO and transcribed into Will and Grant Books from 1858 onwards. A yearly Calendar was prepared, which included indexes of the wills as well as administrations. Unfortunately, most of the original materials before 1915 were destroyed in the 1922 fire, but some survived, while those transcribed at district level, before being sent to Dublin, are still extant.

Thankfully, copies of the Calendar material survive giving the name, address and occupation of the Testator, the place and date of death, the value of the estate as well as information on the Executor. These can be viewed in the NAI. The few original wills which survived the 1922 conflagration can be found by viewing the Testamentary Card Index in the NAI.

Also of much help to the family researcher in these testamentary affairs is a comprehensive reference guide, noting available General Indexes, surviving Will and Grant Books, Abstracts and Transcripts, as well as lists of Consistorial Wills and Administration Bonds Indexes, (published, and in the NAI), as well as yearly Calendars of Wills and Administrations from 1858. This is included in John Grenham's, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (Third Edition) 2006.

From this source, one notes that numerous abstracts mainly relating to wills involving the famous Burke families of Galway are in NLI GO 707, while Skerrett family material is contained in *The Irish Ancestor*, Vol. 5, No. 2, (1975). Of value to the Galway family researcher also is the *Index to Clonfert and Kilmacduagh Wills*, edited by Patrick Smythe-Woods, 1977.

The reader will not be surprised to learn that much more has been published giving information on wills such as *A Guide to Copies and Abstracts of Irish Wills* by the Rev. Wallace Clare (Sharman, 1930), which gives information on wills deposited in English archives and *Analecta Hibernica*, Vol. 17, provides an Index to Will Abstracts in the Genealogical Office (now part of the NLI).

As well as the depositories mentioned, others such as the RIA, RCBL and Trinity College Library hold collections of will abstracts and transcripts, while information of a testamentary nature also lie in such sources as Inland Revenue Records of London including Indexes and Registers as well as Land Commission Records (mainly 19 century), and where disputes arose, in the Registry of Deeds. A sizeable number of deeds were registered in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin. Abstracts of Wills registered there during the period 1708 to 1832 have been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission in three volumes, Volume I (1708-1745), Volume II (1746-1785) and Volume III (1785-1832).

Locally in JHL, an electronic resource, available on CD-ROM at the Information Desk is *An Index to Irish Wills, 1848-1858* (Eneclann, Dublin, 1999) 929.3415 IND, this, and other will sources, are also available on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)

### **Marriage License Bonds**

Finally, Marriage License Bonds were a facility used to meet the official need to ensure there was no impediment to marriage. Couples entered a bond or guarantee that there was no previous marriage. These surety fees were paid to the local CoI minister. Alternatively, prior to 1858, a marriage licence was obtained from the ecclesiastical courts, when payment in the form of the bond was paid for the same marriage surety purpose. They were

an alternative to the posting of Banns, which required that a notice announcing the intention to marry be made three weeks in advance.

Two types of marriage licence bonds operated depending on the needs of the couple involved. One was a diocesan marriage licence valid for three months, while the Prerogative version through the aforementioned

Prerogative Court of Armagh had no time or place restrictions. While very few actual Bonds or Licences for Galway survive, indexes to Marriage Licence Bonds do as follows:

Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds' Indexes – 1750-1861 NAI; 1629-1858 GO Ms. 605-607; while of interest to Galway family researchers are Diocesan Marriage Licence Bonds Indexes for Tuam Diocesan Court (1769-1845) NAI, also NLI Pos. 1884.



## Chapter 10 Commercial and Social Directories

Commercial and Social Directories are listings of tradesmen, professionals, clergy and gentry in different areas. These were the Yellow or Golden Pages of their day and were generally produced by private publishers as commercial products. Different publishers had different formats for their directories, and some specialised in certain parts of the country. Many of them also contain useful information on local administration, such as the police, militia, court sessions and public officials. They were therefore a major resource for research on ancestors who were business owners or professionals, or who held some form of public office. As they were commercial ventures, the earliest directories cover the larger towns, but gradually all parts of the country and a wide range of even small towns are featured.

Another form of these directories are Social Directories which provide information on the 'gentry' and other prominent citizens. Some of these are contained within the above Commercial Directories, while others are separately published.

These directories are useful sources of information for tracing your Galway ancestors. They were first produced in the 18th century and while the earlier versions usually refer to the upper and middle classes such as, in the Galway context, gentry, professionals and those holding public positions, a format change occurred as the 19th century progressed. The later directories also included important information on the growing trade section of society and can be a vital research tool for those undertaking genealogical research as the occupations and name bases were much larger. It is in this latter area of noting the trades that perhaps you have the best chance of linking your family name with the past, especially if your clan has a long connection with the occupation in question. However, these

directories refer only to the well-to-do sections of the societies of the time, and the vast majority of the labouring population find no mention among what were in effect, 'leading citizens'!

As the early directories refer mostly to the upper classes and their 'seats', research on this facet of the society of the time is enhanced with visual aids in the form of published maps, a typical example being *Taylor's and Skinner's Maps of Ireland* published in 1783, which actually place these 'seats' in their topographical context beside the main roads then in existence. To aid the intrepid traveller of the time, *Tyner's Travellers Guide through Ireland* was published in 1794 as a companion book to the above. Other such 'travelling' directories, and there were many, include *Wilson's Postchaise Companion* (Editions. 1784, 86 and 1803); *Dodd's Traveller's Directory through Ireland* (1801), and Samuel Lewis, *Topographical Directory of Ireland* (1837 first edition is available online at [www.libraryireland.com](http://www.libraryireland.com)).

The main sets of commercial/trade directories applicable to County Galway include:

*Pigot's Provincial Directory of Ireland, 1820*. This is one of the first commercial directories of Ireland and is organised by province and town. It gives very valuable information on the town in question as well as all the main office holders, gentry, those in professions and some trades, and also data on public institutions such as schools, churches, and courts, as well as on private institutions such as hotels and inns. The 1824 version of Pigot's directory is a much-enlarged version of the first edition, published in 1820. Ballinasloe, Gort, Loughrea and Eyrecourt are added. For the local Galway family tree compiler, Pigot's Directories for 1820, 1821, 1822 and 1824 are available for inspection on microfiche in the St. Augustine Street branch of the Galway City Library and 914.1 DIR Microform Room at JHL or can be assessed online at <http://failteromhat.com/pigot.htm>

***An extract of a page from Pigot's Directory of 1824 showing a description of Loughrea and some merchants and traders.  
Available on CD-ROM from [www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie)***

*The Irish Almanac and Official Diary* (known also as Thom's Commercial Directory) was first published in 1844 by Alexander Thom. It was eventually expanded to include Street Directories, leading eventually from Dublin to Cork and Galway and what it describes as 'other towns'. It is important to note that use is made in this directory of 1841-1871 population census records, most of which were subsequently lost. The 1880 and '84 editions are on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie).

*Slater's Directory of Ireland*, perhaps the best known of such works, provides even more information than Pigot's Directory. Under different titles, all incorporating the name Slater, the 1846, 1856, 1870, 1881 and 1894 editions of this directory are available on microfiche in Galway City Library, in the NLI and in many other libraries. Of particular interest is the 1846 edition, known as *Slater's National Commercial Directory of Ireland*, which, for the Connacht section also, goes through all the provincial towns in alphabetical order including the interspersed County Galway grouping in this order: Athenry, Ballinasloe, Castleblakeney, Clifden, Dunmore, Eyrecourt, Galway, Gort, Headford, Loughrea, Portumna and Tuam. The 1846 edition is available online at <http://www.failteromhat.com/slater.htm> and on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie).

*The Galway Year Book and Directory*, known locally as the 'Red Book' of Galway were an annual series published in association with the *Galway Express* in 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907. As well as providing general information such as current industries and historical data each year, these publications also included much data on the principal officials, as well as members of parliament, of both county and city. As well, trades people in the city are named such as saddlers and tinsmiths, while traders, including victuallers and tobacconists, are also listed with their addresses provided, backed up in many cases by a large number of advertisements ranging from a growing number of hotels to agents for the new phenomenon known as motor cars!

### *from the Galway Year Book and Directory 1905*

Of particular interest, is a published list of Galway's 'Leading Citizens', including their 'place of abode', based on those qualified to vote in Harbour Board elections, the qualification being a Valuation of £15 and upwards. The fact that 367 names are included in the 1905 edition indicate that the influence of the ancient order of the fourteen 'Tribes of Galway' was well and truly over as the 20th century dawned. Bound photocopy sets for 1905 and 1907 are available for inspection in the Reference Library of Galway County Library at Island House, Galway.

As Galway was always a leading tourist destination from the earliest stirrings of this particular industry, other sources of information useful to the genealogist occur in official tourist guides to the county such as the Galway City and County Official Guide published by the Irish Tourist Association in 1939. While the usual tourist data is provided, information of use to the family researcher is also contained in these publications, not least from the inclusion of advertisements listing service providers such as family-run hotels, drapers, general merchants as well as designated services right across the commercial spectrum from hairdressers to wine merchants.

Thus, in the 1939 edition, we learn that Mrs. B. Heffernan was proprietor of the Timree House in Nile Lodge, which was only five minutes from Salthill, Galway's premier seaside resort, while John Lenihan (Telephone 67) was celebrating the family's diamond jubilee (1864-1939) of shipping Minha Senhora Ports as well as Pale Dry Sherries. These advertisements, in particular, provide not only data for the valued family tree, they can also paint a vivid picture of the commercial activities of earlier family members now lost even to memory itself.

A useful publication of short biographies for many prominent residents of Galway is '*Thoms Irish Who's Who*' which was first published in 1923, also available on CD from [www.archivedcdbooks.ie](http://www.archivedcdbooks.ie) - See extract below.



# Chapter 11 Newspapers

As well as supplying vital data on family births, weddings and deaths, other family information can lie on fading pages of early newsprint. Of these, achievements of every sort, tragedies, scandals, as well as sporting and military prowess can fill the social pages, especially of local newspapers, sometimes with startling and useful new family information. As today, people are not routinely mentioned in newspapers, but may be noted for a huge range of possible reasons. The typical events that may be mentioned are:

- Biographical information: Births, Marriages and Deaths are listed in some papers but until the 20th century these notices were almost always of events in the more prominent families.
- Crimes and Accidents: Criminal cases and trials are well reported in most areas and these can produce useful details, often of an unwanted nature.
- Petitions, Voters' Lists, etc.: During various periods of political agitation, some papers published lists of these petitioning for some cause, or lists of those entitled to vote.
- Advertisements: Tradesmen and professionals advertised in newspapers. These tend to be colourful as family history memorabilia but generally do not provide much additional information other than perhaps an address.

While the early papers' contents refer mostly to the landed gentry, more and more news information on the general public appeared as the 19th century progressed. This is augmented by a massive rise in advertising, which also increases the spread of family trading names as well as those involved in manufacturing and the service industries.

The work of a wool card-maker may give us an insight into the social and economic life of our ancestors. The fact that Martin

Murphy offered such a service in High Street in Galway in 1905 may well be of special interest to any of his descendants filling out the family tree. As well, an ancient family name in the Ballinasloe area is maintained when we read in the *Galway Vindicator* of 17th January, 1844, that F. E. Madden respectfully solicited patrons to inspect his stock of trees, flowers and shrubs in his Ballinasloe Nurseries.

Although many newspapers were published in Galway from the late 18th century, (37 are listed below), surviving copies from the earlier years are rather rare. The main centres of newspaper publication were Galway City, Ballinasloe and Tuam. When conducting a search, it is useful to first search the newspapers published closer to your ancestors' home. Local papers are more likely to publish local events. The *Connaught Journal* is deemed one of the best of the early surviving news-sheets, while the aforesaid *Galway Vindicator* was one of the most popular, as was the *Galway Mercury*, which was very much on the side of the 'ordinary' person of the time, from tenant farmer to humble fish wife. Meanwhile, the *Freeman's Journal*, was a national paper much read by the middle and upper classes in Galway in the 19th century, and an index, arranged by date, subject, including surname, and place (subdivided by county), is in the NLI.

A feature of the newspaper business is the launch and demise of titles. Many newspapers were published for only a few years or even months, and then failed. Some of these short-lived titles may also contain useful information. Two useful sources for finding regional newspapers are:

- *The Waterloo Directory of Irish Newspapers and Periodicals, 1800-1900*. (Ed. John S. North, 1986) provides an alphabetical listing and description of all Irish newspapers. This directory is available in most libraries [www.nwap.on.ca/irish.html](http://www.nwap.on.ca/irish.html) - See page 111.
- The Newsplan Project is a co-operative preservation initiative for Irish and UK newspapers. Reports on holdings of Irish newspapers by Irish and UK archives were published in 1992 and in 1998. The current report is available in database form on the NLI website –

www.nli.ie It arranges the titles alphabetically and by county, indicating the location of each title.

However, thanks to the wonder of microfilm and, increasingly of the internet, a much wider access to these early publications is now available. The National Library of Ireland (NLI) and the British Library (BL) holdings, either in hard copy or microfilm, are of particular help to the amateur and professional genealogist. Increasingly, these titles are also being made available on websites. See in particular [www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com).

***An entry from 'The Waterloo Directory of Irish Newspapers and Periodicals, 1800-1900' See page 110***

Finally it is often worth checking with local libraries (see Chapter 14) for collections of newspaper clippings on particular areas or families. County Galway is well served with the microfilm facilities offered by the Galway County Council Archives (GCCA) section of the county library.

The following is an inventory of newspaper holdings published in the county from the late 18th century up to more recent times. Holdings in the NLI and BL are also indicated.

***Ballinasloe Independent (see Western Argus)***

***Connacht Champion***

Published in: Galway:

GCCA Holdings: 7.1904 – 1911.

***Connaught Journal***

Published in: Galway: 1793-1840.

NLI Holdings: 1793; 1795; 1823-36; odd numbers 1839, 1840.

BL Holdings: 1.1823-12.1836; 2-12.1840.

GCCA Holdings: 11.1791 – 1793; 1795; 24.5.1813; 1823 – 1836; 12.8.1839; 2.1840 – 12.1840.

***Connaught Patriot***



Published in: Tuam, 1859-69.

BL Holdings: 81859-12.1864; 10.1865-3.1869.

***Connaught People and Ballinasloe Independent***

Published: in Ballinasloe, 1882-86

BL Holdings; 4.1884-9.886.

GCCA Holdings: 4.1884 – 9.1886.

***Connacht Sentinel***

Published: in Galway (1909 -)

GCCA Holdings: 8.1927-1945; 1950-2007.

***Connacht/City Tribune***

Published: in Galway (1909 -)

GCCA Holdings: 5.1909 – 2009.

Available on-line at [www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com)

***East Galway Democrat***

Published: in Ballinasloe:

GCCA Holdings: 1911 – 1949.

***An extract from ‘The Connaught Journal’, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1840.***

***Galway Advertiser***

Published: in Galway:

GCCA Holdings: 1986 – 1992.

***Galway American***

Published: in Galway:

GCCA Holdings: 4.1862 –6.1863.

***Galway Express***

Published: in Galway: (1853-1920)

NLI Holdings: 1.1853-10.1918; 3.1919-9.1920.

BL Holdings: 1.1853-12.1918; 3.1919-9.1920.

GCCA Holdings: 1.1853 – 10. 1918; 3.1919 – 9.1920.

***Galway Free Press***

Published: in Galway: 1832-35.

NLI Holdings: 1.1832-3.1835.

BL Holdings: 1.1832-3.1835.  
GCCA Holdings: 1.1832 – 3.1835.

***Galway Independent Paper***

Published in: Galway, ca. 1825-32.  
NLI Holdings: 1.1829-3.1832.  
BL Holdings: 1.1829-3.1832.  
GCCA Holdings: 1.1829 – 3.1832.

***Galway Mercury (and Connacht Weekly Advertiser)***

Published in: Galway: 1844-60.  
NLI Holdings: 10.1844-3.1860.  
BL Holdings: 10.1844-3.1860.  
GCCA Holdings: 10.1844 – 3.1860.

***Galway Observer***

Published in Galway: 1881-1966.  
NLI Holdings: 1902; 1917-21; 8.1927-10.1966.  
BL Holdings: odd numbers 1882-84; 6.1889-8.1923;  
2.1925-10.1966.  
GCCA Holdings: 18th Nov., 23rd Dec. 1882; 20th Jan., 24th  
Feb., 3 – 17th; 31st Mar., 7th Apr. – 2nd June, 7th, 28th July,  
8th Sept., 20th Oct., 1883; 17th May, 7th, 14th June, 19th July  
1884; 8th June 1889 – 25th Aug. 1923; 28th Feb. 1925 – 1st Oct.  
1966.

***Galway Packet (and Connacht Advocate)***

Published: in Galway: 1852-54.  
NLI Holdings: 4.1852-12.1854.  
BL Holdings: 4.1852-12.1854.  
GCCA Holdings: 24th Apr. 1852 – 20th Dec. 1854.

***Galway Patriot***

Published: in Galway: 1835-39.  
NLI Holdings: 7.1835-10.1839.  
BL Holdings: 7.1835-10.1839.  
GCCA Holdings: 7.1835 – 10.1839.

***Galway Pilot***

Published: in Galway:  
GCCA Holdings: 1.1905 – 10.1918.

***Galway Press***

Published: in Galway

GCCA Holdings: 3.1860 – 12.1861.

***Galway Standard***

Published: in Galway:

GCCA Holdings: 10.1842 –12.1843.

***Galway Vindicator***

Published: in Galway: 1841-99.

NLI Holdings: 7.1841-12.1844; 3-12.1845; 1846-55;  
2.1856-12.1858; 1.1859-12.1898; 1-11.1899.

BL Holdings: 7.1841-12.1844; 3.1845-12.1855; 2.1856-1.1876;  
2.1876-11.1899.

GCCA Holdings: 7.1841 – 12.1844; 3.1845 – 12.1845; 1.1846 –  
12.1855; 2.1856 – 12.1899.

***Galway Weekly Advertiser***

Published: in Galway: 1823-43.

NLI Holdings: 1.1823-5.1843.

BL Holdings: 1.1823-5.1843.

GCCA Holdings: 1.1823 – 5.1843.

***Loughrea Nationalist***

Published in Loughrea:

GCCA Holsing: 1.1905 – 8.1905.

***Tuam Gazette***

Published in: Tuam

GCCA Holdings: 7th Aug. 1824.

***Tuam Herald (continued as Herald and Western Advertiser in 1955)***

Published in: Tuam: 1837-1955.

NLI Holdings: 5.1837-9.1955 (with gaps).

BL Holdings: 5.1837-9.1955 (with gaps).

GCCA Holdings: 5.1837 – 12.1878; 12.1883 – 12.1923; 24th  
April, 1924; 8.1927 – 12.2007. Also on-line at  
[www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com)

***Tuam News and Western Advertiser***

Published in: Tuam: 1871-1904.

NLI Holdings: 1.1882-12.1904 (with gaps).

BL Holdings: 6.1871-7.1873; 4.1884-1.1896.

GCCA Holdings: 3.1871 – 7.1873; 4.1884 – 1.1896.

### ***Warden of Galway***

Published in: Galway:

GCCA Holdings: 2.1853 – 8.1853.

### ***Western Argus and Ballinasloe Independent***

Published in: Ballinasloe: 1828-33.

NLI Holdings: 4.1828-12.1829; 2.1830-1.1833.

BL Holdings: 4.1828-10.1829; odd numbers 1830; 7.1830 – 12.1833.

GCCA Holdings: 4.1828 – 10.1929; 2.1830 – 1.1833.

### ***Western News***

Published in: Ballinasloe: 1877-1926.

NLI Holdings: 10.1898-12.1898; 3.1901-7.1903;  
7.1904-12.1926.

BL Holdings: 11.1878-11.1877; 2.1888-1.1892;  
12.1899-12.1902.

GCCA Holdings: 10.1898-12.1898; 3.1901-7.1903; 11.1905 – 12.1906; 1.1907-12.1920.

### ***Western News and Galway Guardian***

Published in: Ballinasloe

GCCA Holdings: 12.1899 – 3.1901.

### ***Western News and Galway Leader***

Published in: Ballinasloe

GCCA Holdings: 1.1921-12.1926.

### ***Western News and Weekly Examiner***

Published in: Ballinasloe

GCCA Holdings: 11.1878 – 12.1887; 1.1888 – 12.1890; 1.1891 – 1.1892.

### ***Western Star and Ballinasloe Advertiser***

Published in: Ballinasloe, 1845 – 1902

NLI Holdings: 10.1845 – 12.1866; 1.1867 – 8.1869;

12.1888-5.1902.

BL Holdings: 10.1845 – 8.1869; 12.1888 – 5.1902.

GCCA Holdings: 10.1845 –12.1866; 1.1867 – 8.1869; 12.1888 – 5.1902.

## Chapter 12 Galway Family and Tribal Histories

In dealing with histories of families with a Galway background, the researcher has many fonts of published information to tap. Such sources of information fall into various categories

- (a) Singular publications, which deal directly with a specific Galway family such as *The Redingtons of Clarenbridge*, Joseph Murphy, published in 1999.
- (b) Books covering numerous family histories, which give the origin and general history of families in a national context such as Edward McLysaght's *Irish Families – their Names, Arms, and Origins*, Dublin, Allen Figgis, 1972 or of a local grouping of families, such as T.P. O'Neill's *The Tribes and other Galway Families*, Galway, 1984. It should be noted that the Tribes of Galway (a derogatory 17<sup>th</sup> century term) consisted of the following town merchant families: Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Browne, D'Arcy, Deane, Font, French, Joyce, Kirwan, Lynch, Martin, Morris and Skerrett. Many of these families acquired estates throughout County Galway and beyond in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- (c) Primary source material of family histories or portions thereof including pedigrees compiled by family members, privately kept or lodged in national archives such as the NLI or locally in the JHL or GCL.
- (d) Secondary sources including journal articles of a family history nature as published in *Galway Roots* and various volumes of the *JGAHS* (the latter on CD also, Volumes 1-55, 1900-2003).

Databases such as [www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie) created by the Moore Institute of the National University of Ireland, Galway, which contains references to 1,700 families and 1,500 estates in Connacht.

Newspaper articles as exemplified by the entire history of the

Blake-Forster family published in the *Galway Vindicator and Connaught Advertiser* of Saturday, October, 1886, or dedicated columns such as the ‘Galway of the Tribes’ series in the *Galway Advertiser* by Seathrun of Dubhros.

Not surprisingly, much as been written and researched as regards the genealogy of Galway families. While one might start research of a family, if of a prominent variety, in Burke’s *Irish Family Records* (London, Burke’s Peerage, 1976), or in the aforementioned McLysaght work, one should also delve into James J. Ryan’s *Sources for Irish Family History*, (Flyleaf Press, Dublin, 2001) and especially the aforementioned [www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie) for further Galway family reference points.

What follows is a selection, based upon the above, of some of the published family histories, either in part or in whole, with various family names associated with Galway. As many of these sources derive from the same printed publications, those most often quoted in this chapter have been noted under the following coding:

|    |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JF | <i>The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh</i> by J. Fahey, 1893                                                                              |
| JH | <i>The History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway from the Earliest Period to the Present Time</i> , by James Hardiman, Dublin, 1820.                 |
| GM | <i>Gort Inse Guaire – A Journey through Time</i> , by Eds. Marguerite Grey and Marie McNamara, Gort Heritage Trust, 2000. See ‘Relics of Auld Dacency’ chapter. |
| MG | <i>Galway History &amp; Society</i> , ed. by Gerard Moran and Raymond Gillespie, Dublin, 1996                                                                   |
| N  | <i>The Tribes and other Galway</i>                                                                                                                              |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OF | <i>Families</i> , by T. P. O'Neill,<br>Galway, 1984<br><i>A Chorographical Description of<br/>West or H-Iar Connaught</i> , by<br>Roderick O'Flaherty, 1684,<br>edited by James Hardiman,<br>1846 |
| RL | <i>Abbeyknockmoy A Time to<br/>Remember</i> by Carol O'Regan<br>and Audrey Lacey, 1996                                                                                                            |
| SS | <i>The History of Galway City &amp;<br/>County</i> by Seán Spellissy,<br>Limerick, 1999                                                                                                           |
| TM | <i>A Historical Survey on the Parish<br/>of Ahascragh, Caltra and<br/>Castleblakeney</i> by Tadhg<br>MacLochlain, 1979.                                                                           |

The following list contains information on some of the major families associated with Galway.

### **Athy (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Athy family in N and further information is in JH, MG and SS; *Captain George Athy (of Galway and Maryland) and his descendants: a Guide to the first six Generations of the Athy, Athey, Atha, Athon family in America*, by Lawrence F. Athy Houston, Texas, 1987; A history of the Athy family, written by 'Seathrun of Dubhros' in the 'Galway of the Tribes' series appears in the May 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000, editions of the *Galway Advertiser*, 2000.

### **Barrett Family:**

Noted in JH. Collection in the JHLSC relating to the works of three members of the family, Stiopháin (1867 – 1921), his daughter Síghle (1903 – 1985), and son Ciarán (1905 – 1976). Stiopháin was the first treasurer of the Gaelic League. Covering dates: 1868 – 1968. Collection size: 5 boxes. Collection code: G3.

### **Beatty Family:**

A note on the Beatty family is in *The History of Galway City and*



County by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999

### **Bellew Family:**

Bellew family of Mountbellew is noted in *Menlough Looking Back* by Bernard McHale and further information on the Bellews is in MG, TM and SS (pp.328-9); *The Bellews of Mount Bellew: a Catholic Family in 18<sup>th</sup> century Ireland*, by Karen J. Harvey, Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1998. Clarke, Joe, *Christopher Dillon Bellew and his Galway Estates 1763-1826*, Four Courts Press, 2003.

### **Bermingham Family:**

Information on this family is in JH, MG and SS; Notes on family pedigree in *JGAHS* Vol. 9, (1915-6), pp.195-205 and the Bermingham Family of Athenry Vol. 10, (1917-8), pp.139-154 and Vol. 46 (1994); *Manual of origin, descent, etc., of Barony of Athenry*, Dublin, 1820; 'John Birmingham of Millbrook – the Hidden Life' by Paul Mohr in *Glimpses of Tuam Since the Famine*, Ed. John A. Claffey, Old Tuam Society, 1997.

### **Blake (Tribal) Family: (See also Blake-Forster Family)**

Blake, M. J., *Blake Family Records 1300-1700*, London, 1905. Concise history of the Blake family in N; A history of the Blakes including Pedigree is in OF (pp. 192-213) *et al*; Blake family, prominent members and estates plus outline genealogical chart are contained in MG and noted in JH and SS; Histories of the Blake families of Ballyglunin and Crumlin Park Houses are provided in RL; History of the Blakes of Renvyle, Connemara is contained in the *Portrait of a Parish, Ballynakill, Connemara* by The Tully Cross Guild, Irish Countrywomen's Association, 1985; The Blakes of Vermont, Menlough, are noted in the chapter, 'Landlords' in *Menlough Looking Back* by Bernard McHale; Information on the Blakes of Menlo is in *A Town Tormented by the Sea: Galway, 1790-1914*, John Cunningham, Dublin, 2004; The chapter 'Menlo' in *Reflections on Lough Corrib* by Maurice Semple, Galway, 1974 deals specifically with the Blakes of Menlo; Deed of Award in the Blake Collection of Records, *JGAHS* Vol. 4 (1906-6) and more data in Vol. 57 (2005) re. Lord Wallscourt of Ardfry by John Cunningham; 'Teach Mór na BhForbacha – Nótaí Staire: 1585-1936' ag Liam Ó Gráinne i

*bPléaráca*, Meanfhomair, 1991; See also more information on the Blakes in the reprints of J. F. Quinn's 'History of Mayo' written in the 1930s in various editions during 1986 of the *Western People* newspaper; *My Connemara Childhood 1876-97*, by Ellen M. Blake; Blakes of Drum and Furbo in *Barna - A History*, by Padhraic Faherty, 2000; *A Portrait of Maree* by Marie Killilea refers to the Blakes of Ardfry; *A Sea-Grey House – The History of Renvyle House* by Guy St. John Williams, 1995 has Chapter 3 devoted to the Blakes; Blakes of Ardfry House in *Oranmore in Days of Yore* by Kay Davis, pp. 66-71; Ó Conghaile, Micheál, *Conamara agus Árainn 1880-1980*, notes on 'Tiarnaí Talún', (Landlords) such as the Blakes of Furbo, Robinsons in Carraroe, Thompsons of Aran, etc.; *The Blake Family of County Galway, Ireland and the United States* by Clarke Blake, 2003.

### **Blakeney Family:**

Much information of this family is contained in MG, RL and SS (p. 467); A family tree is provided in *Roots*, Summer, 1993.

### **Blake-Forster Family:**

Complete account of the lineage of this family is in the *Galway Vindicator and Connaught Advertiser* newspaper October, 20, 1886; 'Musings in a Country Churchyard' in *Bushypark Celebrates*, Fr. Garvey, Galway, 1988; Members buried at Kilmacdaugh, *Galway Advertiser* May 21, 1998.

### **Bodkin (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Bodkin family in N. Much information on the family and their estates are in JH, MG and SS; 'The Bodkins of Kilclooney', including family tree by Christy Mulloy (Extract from *Milltown Sketches*) in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996; See newspaper article, 'Bloody Bodkins' by Martin Dolan in the 1984 Christmas edition of the *Tuam Herald*.

### **Brabazon Family:**

History of this landed gentry family with pedigree is included in *The Parish of Ballinasloe* by Rev. Patrick K. Egan, 1960; A note on the Brabazons appears in S.

### **Brennan Family:**

Family members are mentioned in *The History of Galway City &*

County by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999. The Brennan family from Chequerhill, Dunmore and later Australia are covered in the *Chequerhill Brennan History*, a large volume of 1137 pages edited by Carole O'Connor (nee Brennan) - contact John A. Brennan, P.O. Box 559, 9Kilmiston drive, Frankston, VIC 3199, Australia.

Email: jabrennan@omni.net.au or phone 0359714121

### **Brien, O', Family:**

O'Briens of Fairfield, Co. Galway: the O'Brien relations of Florimond, Comte de Basterot. *Ir Gen.* 11 (3) (2004) 190-204; O'Brien's of Aran in Ordnance Survey Letters, edited by Michael Herity, 2009, pp.468-470.

### **Browne (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Browne family is in N. Much information of the Brownes is included in JH, MG and SS; A history of the Browne family of Moyne Park is provided in RL; A Pedigree, hand-written going back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century of the Browne family of Brownville in the County of the Town of Galway is now in the JHLSC. Collection Code P41; Finding Aids: Small Collections Index; See also, the Brownes of Castle MacGarrett in Vol. V of the *JGAHS* (1907-8), pp. 48-59, 165-177, and 227-238.

### **Burke (de Burgo, de Burgh, Bourke) Family (including Clanricardes):**

*Concise history of the Burkes* (de Burgos) in N. Varied information on the family is included in JH, OF, MG and SS. *Burke People and Places*, 1984 by Eamonn Burke includes the history of the Burke family with specific references given to the Clanricarde Burkes of Portumna, as well those at Glinsk, St. Clerans, and Marble Hall in County Galway. Burke biography, bibliography, castle ownership in 1574 and name variations are also included; Much of the history of the Burke family is recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893; Clanricarde Burkes of Portumna Castle by Tomás Ó Gormáin and Desmond Roche in *A Forgotten Campaign*, 1986, and also Dominic Kearns and Desmond Roche in *Clanricarde Country*, 1987, both books published by Woodford

Heritage Group; Also, the history of this major branch of the family is included in *The Parish of Ballinasloe* by Rev. Patrick K. Egan, 1960; Burkes of Killimer Castle by James N. Dillon in *Kiltullagh Killimordaly As The Centuries Passed* edited by Kieran Jordan, 2000; Burkes of St. Clerans by William Henry in *St. Clerans – The Tale of a Manor*, 1999, as well as *The Burke Family of St. Clerans*, in the St. Cleran's set of booklets, 1999; Burkes of Glinsk are recorded in 'Landed Estates in North-East Galway' by Patrick Melvin in the *Glenamaddy Arts and Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 11, 1993 and in 'Genealogy of the Glinsk Burkes' in *History of Glinsk* by Ed. Martin Ward, 2002; More information on the Burkes is found in the following editions of the *JGAHS* – 1 (1900-1) pp. 123-31 and 196-7; 3 (1903-4) pp. 46-58; 4 (1905-6) pp. 55-62; 6 (1909) pp. 107-9; 8 (1913-4) pp. 1-11; 13 (1926-7) pp. 37-137; 14 (1928-9) pp.30-51 and 142-66; 21 (1945) pp. 174-183; 22 (1945) pp. 174-181; 31 (1964-5) pp. 71-99; 48 (1996) pp. 162-208; *Notes on the History of the De Burgh Family*, E. J. Hussey de Burge, Dublin, 1890; *A Great Landlord during the Great Famine* by John Joseph Conwell, 2003.

### **Cahill Family:**

A note on this family is in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999

### **Chevers Family:**

Copy in the JHLSC of a memoir by Frederica Sophia Chevers relating to the history of her family in Killyan prior to the 1930s. Covering dates: 1936. Collection size: 25 pp. Collection code: LE20. Finding aids: Small collections index; This family is mentioned in MG.

### **Clancarty Family:**

History of this landed gentry family is included in *The Parish of Ballinasloe* by Rev. Patrick K. Egan, 1960.

### **Clery (O') Family:**

Aspects of the history of the Clery family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893.

### **Concannon (O') (and derivatives) Family;**

A note on this family and some members appears in MG and SS, and in *A Place of Genius and Gentility – Insights into our Past – Kilkerrin, Co. Galway*, Kilkerrin Heritage Group, 2006.

**Conneely/Connolly Family:**

This family is mentioned in SS; Connollys of Letterfrack by Kevin Preiss in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 3, 1995; Also in *Beyond the Twelve Bens*, by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill, 1986; also origin from seals in OF p.271

**Connor, (O') Family:**

A major history of the O'Connor clan is provided in OF, (pp. 134–140); Varied information on this family is found in JH, MG, SS and RL; Aspects of the O'Connor family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893.

**Conroy/King/MacConrí Family:**

Information on this family is provided in OF (pp. 281-2) and members in SS; also in *Beyond the Twelve Bens*, by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill, 1986.

**Coyne, Kilcoyne, Kyne, Coen/Ó Cadhain Family:**

See information on Máirtín Ó Cadhain in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999.

**Crushell. See Donnelly**

**Daly (O') Family:**

Concise history of the Daly family in N and notes in JH and SS; Aspects of the Daly family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893. The Daly Chronicle. A compendium of the family history in the JHLSC of the Dalys of Castle Daly, County Galway, completed by Dermot Macro Daly, include notes on the general history of the family in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Collection size: 235 pp. Collection code: LE23. Finding Aid: Small collections Index; The Dalys of Killimor, Raford and Dunsandle in County Galway including family trees by James N. Dillon are in *Kiltullagh Killimordaly As The Centuries Passed* edited by Kieran Jordan, 2000; Daly family with pedigrees in *JGAHS* Vol. 13 (1924-6) p.

140; *The O'Dalys of Muintuavara: a Story of a Bardic Family*, Dominick Daly, Dublin, 1821; *History of the Dalys*, E. E. O'Daly, New York, 1937; 'Dunsandle Papers', *Anal. Hib.*, Vol. 15, 392-405; Capt. Charles Daly (of Dunsandle Galway) in 'King James' Irish Army List' (notes on family members pre-1761); *History of the O'Dalys*, New Haven, Conn. Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Co. 1937. (LDS Lib 929.2415 Odlo); *The 'Daly Chronicle'*. (Dalys of Daly's Grove, Galway) *Ir. Gen.* 11 (1) (2002) 3-12.

### **D'Arcy (Tribal) Family:**

Notes on the D'Arcy family are in JM, MG, N and SS; A history of the D'Arcy family associated with Clifden is contained in the *History of Clifden 1810 – 1860* by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill, 1981, and *Beyond the Twelve Bens*, 1986; The D'Arcy family of Killtullagh, are noted by Kieran Jordan and Marcella Kavanagh in *Kiltullagh Killimordaly As The Centuries Passed*, 2000, and in *Roots*, Vol. V, 1998; Darcys of Newforest are noted in 'Landed Estates in North-East Galway' by Patrick Melvin in the *Glenamaddy Arts and Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 11, 1993; Pedigree of D'Arcy family in Vol. 10 (1917-8) *JGAHS* pp. 58-66 plus correction pp. 158-9; *An Historical Sketch of the family of D'Arcy from the Norman Conquest to the year 1853*, John C. Lyons, 1882, Longford/Westmeath Library - LDS Lib 929.2415 Al no. 34; *Pedigree of D'Arcy family (complete English and Irish branches)*, London, Elliott Stock, 1901; 'The D'Arcys from 1323 to Today', *Irish Link* (June 1986) 4-7 and 10 (Sept. 1986) 10-12; Lt. Edmund D'Arcy in 'King James' Irish Army List (Notes on family members pre-1700); *The Genealogy of the D'Arcys of Clonuane in Co. Clare and Kiltolla in Co. Galway*, Darcy Burke, Dublin, 1796 - LDS Lib. 929.2415 Al no. 43; 'The D'Arcy Family' article written by J. F. Quinn in the 1930s reproduced (Part 415) in the *Western People* newspaper; Also in *A Place of Genius and Gentility – Insights into our Past – Kilkerrin, Co. Galway*, Kilkerrin Heritage Group, 2006 - see chapter on the D'arcys of New Forest, including family trees by Gerard McCarthy.

### **Deane (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Deane family in N and notes in JH and SS; Deane Estates (p.356-7) in MG; 'The Deane Family' in the 'Galway of the Tribes' series (three parts) starting 6<sup>th</sup> April,

2000 by Seathrun of Dubhros in the *Galway Advertiser* newspaper.

***From 'The Tribes and other Galway Families' by T.P. O'Neill  
published by the Connacht Tribune (Galway 1984).***

**Dirrane Family:**

Mentioned in *The History of Galway City & County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999 (pp. 164-5).

**Dillon (of Clonbrock) Family:**

References to this family occur in *The Parish of Ballinasloe* by Rev. Patrick K. Egan, 1960; More information on the Dillons can be found in GM, TM and S. More information is in 'Changes of Ownership on the Big Estates' in *A Short History on the Parish of Killare Fohenagh And Kilgerril* by Tadhg MacLachlainn, 1975; 'Clonbrock' in *The History of Ahascragh and Caltra*, Eds. Marty Gilmore and Mattie Kilroy.

**Donnellan (O'), Donnelly Family:**

Notes in S and MG; Muirchertach Ó Domhnalláin is noted in *JGAHS*, Vol. 25 (1952-3) pp. 52-59; *Family History of the Donnellys and the Crushells of Bellmont, Co. Galway, Ireland*, compiled by Fr. James J. Donnelly, S. J., G.P.O. Box 50, Kathmandu, Nepal, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 1996. Also included is information on the Maloneys and Devaneys of Lissanani, as well as the Dowds of Kisshanvy, all of Kilconey, Co. Galway. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of 1998 adds the Maloneys of Lissanai, Kilconly.

**Donoghue O' (and derivates) Family:**

Information on this family is in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999

**Dowd Family:**

Information on this family is in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999 (p. 466); See Donnellan Family above.

**Duggan Family:**

'Duggans of Galway – Their Ancient Origins' by Eugene Duggan in *Galway Roots*, Vol. V, 1998.

### **Egan/MacAodhagáin Family:**

Named individuals are in SS and more on the family is in MG; Notes on the MacEgan family are in Vol. 6, *JGAHS* (1909-10) pp. 1-9; 'Park Law School' (re. Park Castle, home of the MacAodhagains, Brehons to the kings of Connacht in *Tuam*, by Daithí S. Ó Murchú, Tuam, 1970; Also in Chapter 1 of *A Place of Genius and Gentility – Insights into our Past – Kilkerrin, Co. Galway*, Kilkerrin Heritage Group, 2006.

### **Eyre Family:**

Concise history of the Eyres in N and also in JH, MG and SS; *The Eyre Family Connections with Galway* by William Henry in the St. Cleran's set of booklets, 1999; A major cache of Eyre documents (152 in number, bearing dates from 1720 to 1857) are in JHLSC, and Eyres are discussed in *JGAHS*, Vol. 20 (1942-3) pp. 57-74, 151-179, Vol. 21 (1944-5) pp. 71-95, Vol. 23 (1948-49) pp. 147-153, Vol. 60 (2008) pp.88-125; *Signpost to Eyrecourt: Portrait of the Eyre Family Triumphant in the Cause of Liberty*, Ida Gantz, Bath: 1975. ISBN 0901571709.

### **Faherty (O) Family:**

Memoirs in JHLSC of Bartley Faherty, entitled *The Years to Remember*, formerly of Killagoola, Moycullen, County Galway, now of Boston, relate to family history. Covering dates: 1937 – 2004. Collection size 60 pp. Collection code: P77; Finding Aids: Small collections Index; For note on this family see SS

### **Fahy (O') Family:**

Concise history of the Fahy family is in N; Aspects of the history of the Fahy family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893; also in MG and members in SS.

### **Flaherty (O'), Family:**

Concise history of the O'Flaherty family in N; A wide range of material including legal documentation and a Pedigree (pp. 362-437) is contained in OF, while another Pedigree is in *The Ordnance Survey Letters for Galway, 1838*, ed. By Michael Herity,



2009, pp.12; Notes on this family and various prominent members are in SS (p. 415) also in MG and JH.

### **Font (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Font family in N; Notes on this family are also in JH and S; A history of the Font family appears in the 'Galway of the Tribes' series (two parts) by Seathrun of Dubhros in the *Galway Advertiser*, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2000.

### **Ford/MacGiollarnáth/Conroy Family:**

Various family members mentioned in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999

### **French (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the French family in N; French Estates plus outline genealogical chart (pp. 330-335) in MG, which also includes '*The Worlds of a Galway Squire – Robert French of Monivea, 1716-79*' (pp. 271-296); A history of the French family of Monivea is provided in RL and various members in OF; Aspects of the history of the French family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893; The life of Robert French (1716 – 1779) of Monivea, County Galway, is contained in *A Galway Gentleman in the Age of Improvement* by Denis A. Cronin, Maynooth, 1995; French family of Monivea is noted (pp. 335-341) in *Menlough Looking Back* by Bernard McHale; Information on the French family is also contained in JH, MG and S; More information on French family in *JGAHS* Vol. 4 (1905-6) pp. 103-107 and pp. 226-230; Vol. 8 (1913-4) pp. 247-251; Vol. 10 (1917-8) pp. 125-138; Vol. 11 (1919-21) pp. 142-150; Vol. 23 (1948-9) pp. 161-3; Vol. 30 (1962-3) p. 2; *The Families of French and their descendants*, H. B. Swanzy, Dublin, 1908; *Memoir of the French family (Da la Freyne, De Freyne, Frenshe, fFrench)*, John D'Alton, Dublin, 1847; Capts. Matthew & Christopher French (of Galway) in 'King James' Irish Army List' (Notes on family members pre-1700); Histories of various personnel of the French clan can be found in the 'Galway of the Tribes' series in the *Galway Advertiser* newspaper by Seathrun of Dubhros, including the Frenches of Duras in the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 edition, and later the Frenches of Rahasane in the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> edition, 2000,

including the descendants of Andrew French in 2nd Nov. edition, as well as the Frenches of Abbert and Corgary in the Feb. edition of that year; French family of Castlefrench is in TM; 'Monivea – the ffrench Connection' by Des Rohan in *Tiaquin National 'School and District*, Ed. Kevin Devally, 1998.

### **Geoghegan (Mac) Family:**

Information on this family is provided in OF (pp. 276-9) and in MG.

### **Gort/Prendergast/Smyth/Vereker Family:**

Information in GM.

### **Gregory Family:**

Notes on this family are in MG and GM and members in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999

### **Hackett Family:**

Notes on this family are in OF (p. 148) and MG, pp. 405-6.

### **Halloran, (O') Family:**

A history of the family is provided in OF (pp. 253-261); A note on this family (p. 432) is in SS and further information in JH.

### **Hara (O') Family:**

'The O'Haras of Galway' in the 'Galway of the Tribes' column by Seathrun of Dubhros in the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1998 edition of the *Galway Advertiser* newspaper; *The O'Hara Family Connection with St. Clerans*, W. Henry, 1999.

### **Henry Family:**

A short history of the Henry family of Crumlin Park House is in RL; A history of the Henry family of Toghermore House is provided by Treasa Moore in *Galway Roots*, Summer, 1993.

### **Hynes (O') and derivates Family:**

Concise history of the Hynes family in N; Aspects of the history of the Hynes family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893; The family is also mentioned in S and MG; 'A Hynes Connection' by Terry Beadle

and Tom Lavery' is in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996; 'The O'Hynes of South Galway' by Seathrun of Dubhros in his 'Galway of the Tribes' column (three parts starting 15th October, 1998) in the *Galway Advertiser* newspaper.

### **Joyce (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Joyce family in N; Information on this family is in JH, OF, MG and S; Joyces of Corgarry, Menlough are noted in the chapter, 'Landlords' in *Menlough Looking Back* by Bernard McHale; 'The Joyces of Merview' by Gordon St. George Mark in *The Irish Genealogist* 9 (1) (1994) 89-113; 9 (2) (1995); 10 (2) (1999).

### **Kelly (O') Family:**

Concise history of the Kelly family in N and further information in MG, OF and SS; History of family, including family tree (p.37) in *The Parish of Ballinasloe* by Rev. Patrick K. Egan, 1960; Noted in Chapter 1, in *Menlough Looking Back* by Bernard McHale; 'Has anyone here seen Kelly?' by Dr. Joseph M. O'Kelly (Ollamh to the O'Kelly clan) in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 1V, 1996; References to the O'Kelly family in *JGAHS* Vol. 3 (1903-4) pp. 180-185; 4 (1905-6) pp.92-6 and 108-110; 16 (1934-5) pp. 140-143; 29 (1960-1) pp. 78-82; *Memorial religieux de la famille O'Kelly, originaire d'Irlande*, Brussels, 1875; 'Tribes and Customs of Hymany', John O'Donovan, Dublin, Irish Archaeological Society, 1844. Appendix A, pp. 97 – 129; *That Kelly Family* (the Kellys of Philadelphia), John McCallum, New York, 1957; Capt. Denis Kelly (of Skreen, Galway) in King James Irish Army List (notes on family members pre-1747); *History of the Name O'Kelly*, J. D. Williams, Cork, 1977; Memoirs of the Countess Turquet de al Boisserie (nee Matilda O'Kelly) 1865-1956. Typescript in NLI (Call no. Ir 9292 k8) (Kelly of Newtown, Galway); A partial genealogy of the O'Kellys in *The Galway Reader*, Vol. 3, 1and 2, 1950, pp.99-100; 'The O'Kellys of Gallagher' in *The History of Ahascragh and Caltra*, Eds. Marty Gilmore and Mattie Kilroy; 'Full of the Galway Spirit: The O'Kellys of Creeraun and Cooloo' by Diarmuid Ó Cearbhaill in Vol. 59 (2007) and 61 (2009) *JGAHS*, also O'Ceallaigh rulers of Uí Maine by Nollaig Ó Muraíle in Vol. 60 (2008); See also Chapter 6 of *Ballymacward – The Story of an East Galway Parish*,

by John S. Flynn, 1991.

## **King Family (See Conroy)**

### **Kirwan (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Kirwan family in N and further information in MG, JH and SS; *The Kirwans of Castlehackett, Co. Galway* by Ronan Lynch, 2006; A short history of the Kirwans of Cregg House is provided by Margaret Murray in *Roots*, Summer, 1993; 'Richard Kirwan' in Tom Kenny's 'Old Galway' column in the *Galway Advertiser*, 31st January, 1985; 'Genealogy of some branches of the Kirwans of Co. Galway, Ireland' – a Pedigree by Michael Kirwan in the LGMIT; numerous articles in the *Tuam Herald* newspaper including those in issues dated 3/7/15, 16/10/15, 22/11/19, 29/11/19, and 6/12/19; *La Campagne Irlandaise* by Capt. M. W. Kirwan published by W. B. Kelly, 8 Grafton Street, Dublin, 1873; 'A Manuscript History of the Kirwan Family' and 'The Kirwans of Cregg Castle' in 'Days and Nights at Garavans' column in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January 1998, editions of the *Galway Advertiser* newspaper by Morgan O'Doherty; 'The Kirwans of Woodfield' by Seathrun of Dubhros in the 'Galway of the Tribes' column May 24 and 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1998\* editions of the *Galway Advertiser*; 'History Fades as Castle Hackett goes on the Market' article by David Burke and Fionnuala Byrne in a May 1985 edition of *The Tuam Herald*; A Profile of scientist Richard Kirwan is in *The Galway Reader*, Vol. 2, 1 & 2, pp. 66-71; 'The Improving Landlord: Denis Kirwan' in *JOTS 1 (Journal of the Old Tuam Society)*, 2004.

### **Lally Family:**

Concise history of the Lally family is in N; More information on this family is in SS (p. 248); Further data on the Lally family is in the *JGAHS* such as - Sept of O'Maolale or Lally in Vol. 4, (1905-6), pp. 198-230; 'Lally, The Regime's Scapegoat' by Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin in Vol. 56, (2004) and 'A Galway Scion in India' by same writer in Vol. 57, (2005).

### **Lambert Family:**

Much information is in *The Lamberts of Athenry* by Finbarr O'Regan, 1999.

### **Lohan Family:**

Notes on this family surname appear in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999 (pp. 314-5).

### **Lynch (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Lynch family in N; More information on this, the most famous 'Tribal' family and important members appear in JH, OF, SS and MG; 'The Wilson Lynch Estate Papers' by Geraldine Curtin in *Roots*, Vol. V, 1998; Information on Lynch family in *JGAHS* Vol. 8 (1913-4) pp. 65-93, 207-224; Vol. 9 (1915-16) pp. 79-107; Vol. 10 (1917-8) pp. 66-69; 32 (1966-71) pp. 5-72; Vol. 42 (1989-1990) pp. 131-136; Vol. 55 (2003) pp.38-49; *Genealogical Memoranda relating to the Family of Lynch*, London, 1883; *Lynch record, containing biographical sketches of men of the name Lynch, 16th century to 20th century*, E. C. Lynch, New York: William J. Histén, 1925. (LDS Lib. 929.2415 L991L); Various Lynch officers in 'King James' Irish Army List' (Notes on family members pre-1747); Documents on file in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, USA - Provincial Court (Deeds), TP No. 4, pp. 116-122, proceedings concerning the estate of Thomas Lynch, recorded rd January, 1712; 'The Lynches of Renmore and Duras' in the Galway of the Tribes column by Seathrún of Dubhros in the *Galway Advertiser* newspaper, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1998.

### **Madden (O')Family:**

Concise history of the Madden family in N; A note on the family appears in JH and SS (pp. 385-6); *The O'Maddens of HyMany: some pages from the history of a distinguished family*, T. M. Madden, Dublin, 1899; *The Maden family and Maddens in Ireland and England*, F. Madden, London, 1933; 'The Maddens of Silanchia' in *JGAHS*, Vol. 1 (1900) pp. 184-195 and 2 (1902) pp. 21-33; *History of the O'Maddens of Hy-Many* by Gerard Madden, 2004.

### **Mahon Family:**

Notes on this family and family members are in MG, TM and in SS.

### **Maloney (Moloney) Family:**

*Family history of the Donnelly's and the Curshells/Russells of*

*Belmont, Co. Galway, Ireland* by James J. Donnelly, 1996 includes connections with the Maloneys of Lissanani, Kilconly, Co. Galway.

### **Mannion (O') Family:**

Notes on this family are in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999 (p. 459) and in MG.

### **Martin/Martyn (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Martin family is in N and further data in JH, GM, MG, OF and SS; John D'Arcy – Founder of Clifden and family tree of the D'Arcy family in *History of Clifden 1810–1860*, 1981 by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill and *Beyond the Twelve Bens*, 1986; A Photocopy of the genealogy of the Martins of Ballinahinch Castle, Connemara deposited with the Office of Arms, Dublin Castle, by Archer E S Martin, from 17th century to 1900 is in the JHLSC. Covering date. 1900. Collection code: LE22; Martins of Tullira Castle are recorded (p. 249) in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893; Oliver Martyn in Vol. 12 JGAHS (1922-3) pp. 37-41; 'Edward Martyn, the Wealthy Pauper' by Seamus Scully in *Dublin Historical Record*, Vol. XLV No. 2, Autumn, 1992; *Edward Martyn and the Irish Revival*, Denis Gwynn, London, 1930; *Edward Martyn and the Irish Theatre* by Sr. Marie-Therese Courtney, New York, 1956; 'Edward Joseph Martyn' research notes by Norman Morgan, Loughrea, for the Edward Martin Weekend, Gort, 30th September, 1997; 'The Martin-Eyre Feud, 1652–1748' by Adrian J. Martyn in the 'Galway of the Tribes' column in the 27th July (et al) 2000 editions of the Galway Advertiser newspaper; *The Story of Connemara* by Patricia Kilroy, 1989.

### **McDermott Family:**

The McDermotts of Dublin and Ramore, Co. Galway in Ir. Gen. 11(4) (2205) 277-279.

### **McDonagh/McDonogh Family:**

The history of this family is in *An Old Irish Clan Mac Donagh* by William Henry in the St. Cleran's series of booklets, 1999; See *In from the West – The McDonogh Dynasty* by Peadar O'Dowd, Galway, 2002, containing the history of the famous McDonogh

Merchant family of Connemara and Galway City, including the family pedigree; A concise history (pp. 113-115) appears in SS and family members are mentioned in MG.

### **MacHugh/Hughes (and other derivatives) Family:**

History of family mentioned in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999 (pp. 262-3).

### **Molloy Family:**

A note on the name is in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999 (p. 318).

### **Morgan Family:**

Information on this family in 'Morgans of Cornpark' by Anthony Ward in *Glenamaddy Arts and Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 1, 1991

### **Morris (Tribal) Family:**

Concise history of the Morris family in N and further information is in JH, MG and SS; 'Michael Morris – Lord Killanin' article in the column 'Gleanings' by Rev. Martin Coen in the Connacht Tribune newspaper, 6th June, 1975; 'The Morris Family' in the series, 'Galway of the Tribes' by Seathrun of Dubhros in four parts in the weekly *Galway Advertiser* newspaper starting 24th August, 2000; also in *Beyond the Twelve Bens*, by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill, 1986.

### **Naughton Family:**

A note on this family, (p.279) appears in *The History of Galway City and County* by Seán Spellissy, Limerick, 1999

### **Persse Family:**

An intriguing insight into the Persse family life in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is provided in 'To the Land of the Free from this Island of Slaves' – *Henry Stratford Persse's Letters from Galway to America, 1821 – 1832* edited by James L. Pethica and James C. Roy, 1998; Notes on Lady Gregory and Col. William Persse appear (412-3) in SS and other family members in MG; 'Col. William Persse' in *JGAHS*, Vol. 30 (1962-3) pp. 49-89 and 'Henry Stratford Persse and the Galway Famine' in 1822 in Vol. 47 (1995) pp. 1-35 and 'I Prefer a Free Country – Letters to and

from County Galway Emigrants 1843-1856' by James Charles Roy in Vol. 56 (2004) pp. 85-153; *The Fields of Athenry* by James Charles Roy, 2003 contains references to the Persses; 'Persse Holdings in East Galway – Excavations at Moyode and Deerpark' by Tom Janes and 'Four Miniatures of the Persse Family, Moyode Castle, County Galway' by James Roy in *JGAHS*, Vol. 61.

### **Redington Family:**

The complete history of the Redington family of Clarenrbridge is contained in *The Redingtons of Clarenbridge* by Joseph Murphy, 1999; A short history of the landed gentry Redington (Roche) family of Ryehill House is provided in RL (p. 117); The Redington Family of Creggana and Kilcornan, Co. Galway in the column 'Galway of the Tribes' by Seathrun of Dubhros in the *Galway Advertiser*, August 1998.

### **Robinson Family:**

Ó Conghaile, Micheál, *Conamara agus Árainn 1880-1980*, notes on 'Tiarnaí Talún', (Landlords) such as the Blakes of Furbo, Robinsons in Carraroe, Thompsons of Aran, etc.

### **Shaughnessy (O') Family:**

Concise history of the O'Shaughnessy family in N and further data in GM, JH, MG and SS; Aspects of the history of the Shaughnessy family are recorded in *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh* by J. Fahey, 1893; Notes on O'Shaughnessy family in *JGAHS*, Vol. 6 (1909-10) pp. 52-63, 175-177, Vol. 7 (1911-12) p. 53, and Vol. 58 (2006) pp. 22-33; *The Story of an Irish Property*, R. S. Rait, Oxford, 1908; 'Tribes and Customs of Hy Fiachra', John O'Donovan, Dublin: Irish Archaeological Soc. 1844. Appendix B, pp. 372-91; *Beagh – A History and Heritage*, Eds. Marie McNamara, Maura Madden, 1995.

### **Skerrett 'Tribal' Family:**

Concise history of the Skerrett family is contained in N; Skerrett Estates in MG (pp. 356-7); A note on this family (p. 262) is in SS and further information is in JH; 'Some Skerretts' by J. B. McHugh in *Roots*, Vol.1V, 1996; 'Some Records of the Skerrett Family' in Vol. 15 (1931-3) *JGAHS*, pp. 33-72 and 'Obstinate



Skerrett' in Vol. 35 (1976), pp. 12-51; 'Branches of the Skerrett Family' by Seathrun of Dubhros in his 'Galway of the Tribes' column in the *Galway Advertiser* weekly newspaper in three parts starting on the 15th June, 2000; *Galway Reader*, Vol. 2, No. 3 & 4, p.136.

### **St. George Family:**

The history of the St. George family of Kilcolgan on the east shores of Galway Bay is contained in the 'Tyrone House' article by Gordon St. George Mark in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society*, Vol. XI Nos. 3 & 4, July – December, 1976. A family tree is included; A note on this family (p. 295) and some prominent members are noted in S and also in MG; Missing names of this family by Gordon St. George Mark and some Headford St. George Associations by Mary P. Donnellan are in *Galway Roots*, Vol. 3, 1995.

### **Thompson Family:**

Ó Conghaile, Micheál, *Conamara agus Árainn 1880-1980*, notes on 'Tiarnaí Talún', (Landlords) such as the Blakes of Furbo, Robinsons in Carraroe, Thompsons of Aran, etc.

### **Thomson Family:**

The history of the Thomsons, a landed gentry family of Salruck, is contained in *Portrait of a Parish, Ballynakill, Connemara*, by Tully Cross Guild, Irish Countrywomen's Association, 1985.

### **Thornton (O'Draighnean) Family:**

A history is in *An Ancient Distinguished Irish Surname O'Draighneain (Thornton)* by William Henry in the St. Cleran's set of booklets, 1999.

### **Toole, (O') Family:**

Information on this family is provided in OF (pp. 280-1).

### **Trench Family:**

History of this landed gentry family is included in *The Parish of Ballinasloe* by Rev. Patrick K. Egan, 1960; A note on this family (pp. 270-1) and other leading members are contained in S and also in MG. See also, *Images of Ireland – Ballinasloe from Garbally Park to the Fairgreen*, by Declan Kelly.

**Wade Family:**

Information on this family in *A Social History of Aughrim since 1691* by Aughrim Development Company Limited, 2004.

**Ward (e) Family:**

See Chapter 7 of *Ballymacward – The Story of an East Galway Parish*, by John S. Flynn, 1991.

**Walsh (e) Family:**

*Family History* in Family History series by History House Publications, Ennis, 1988.

**Surnames:*****Surnames in Oranmore Parish.***

A list of surnames of Oranmore Parish for the year 1827 and those today including suggested origins are in *The History of Oranmore Maree* by Brenda Furey, 1991. also NAI M5359

***Surnames of Inishbofin, 1893/1993.***

A list compiled by Charles Browne (Royal Irish Academy, 1893) compared with surnames in 1993 is included in *Galway Roots*, Summer 1993.

***The most common surnames in Connaught compiled by Robert Matheson from the index to Births in Ireland 1890.***

## Chapter 13 Further Reading and Useful Sources

This chapter presents some useful guides and other printed sources. These are presented as (a) general guides, maps, directories, internet or television programmes and (b) local histories of people and places including journals, annuals and other publications. Published data on specific Galway families are presented in Chapter 12 although some of these sources can contain elements of both (a) and (b).

### **General Family History Guides and Aids:**

Adolph, Anthony, *Tracing Your Irish Family History*, Harper Collins, London, 2007.

Begley, D.E., *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder*.

*Burke's Irish Family Records*, London, 1976.

Clare, Rev. Wallace, *A Guide to Copies and Abstracts of Irish Wills*, Sharman, 1930.

Dutton, Hely. *A Statistical Survey of the County of Galway* (RDS Dublin 1824)

Goblet, Y. M., *1655-59 Index of Parishes & Townlands*, Irish Manuscripts Commission, (Dublin, 1932) NLI Ir. 9141.

Grenham, John, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, Third Edition, 2006.

Hayes, Richard, *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, Boston, 1965.

Herity, Michael, *Ordnance Survey Letters Galway*, 2009, Dublin.

Irish Manuscripts Commission, *The Transplantation to Connaught*, Dublin, 1970.

Kirwan, Capt. M. W., *La Campagne Irlandaise*, Dublin, 1873.

McLysaght, Edward, *Irish Families – Their Names, Arms and Origins*, Dublin, 1972, 1985, *et al.*

Ryan, James, *Irish Records, Sources for Family and Local History*, Ancestry.com (1997);

Ryan, James *Irish Church Records*, Flyleaf Press

Tallon, Geraldine, ed., *Court of Claims, Submissions and Evidence, 1663*, 2006. ISBN 978-1-874280-80-4.

Vicars, Sir Arthur, *Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland 1538-1810*, 1897 and reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1967.

The following are a number of other sources, which may help you in tracing your Galway ancestors:

### **Local History Sources**

Aughrim Development Company Ltd., *A Social History of Aughrim since 1691*, 2004.

Bhaldraithe, Tomás de, *Seanchas Thomáis Laighléis*, Dublin, 1977, 1981.

Barkley, John Trevor, 'Report on the purchase and occupation of landed property in Connaught, with estimate of present value', London, 1850.

Bermingham, Hubert. *Dunmore A Pictorial Record 1900 – 1996* and *Dunmore 1890-1996*, provide important information including 1901 census details and school registers from 1902.

Blackmore, Liz, et al, Eds., *In Their Own Words – The Parish of Lackagh-Turloughmore and its People*, 2001.

Blake, Ellen, M., *My Connemara Childhood*, 1876-97.

Breathnach, Caoilte and Anne Korff, *Kinvara A Seaport Town on Galway Bay*, 1997.

Breathnach, Pádraic, *Maigh Cuilinn: a táisc and a tuairisc*, 1986.

- Candon, Geraldine, *Headford, County Galway, 1775-1901*, 2003.
- Casserly, James, *The Old Mon – The Story of the Patrician Brothers' School, Lombard Street, Galway, 1996* (contains entire list of pupils' names, addresses, and fathers' occupations from 1871-1954); *A History of Galway Rowing Club 1910 – 2009*, Galway, 2009.
- Chapple, R. M., *The Church of Prayers: gravestone inscriptions from the graveyard of Killora, Craughwell, Galway, 1995* and *Cillogcillín: gravestone inscriptions from the graveyard of Killogilleen, 1997*, Galway.
- Chualáin, Delia Val Uí, *Tús Tuile*; Complete listing of burials including photographs of gravesites and site map site of Reilig graveyard at the entrance to Gorumna Island Connemara.
- Claffey, John A., *History of Moylough-Mountbellew*, 1983.
- Claffey, John A.(Ed.) *Glimpses of Tuam since the Famine*. Old Tuam Society, 1997
- Claregalway Historical and Cultural Society, *Claregalway Parish History 750 Years*, 1999 and *Claregalway Parish History Pictorial*, 2002.
- Coen, Martin, *The Wardenship of Galway*, Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery, 1984, contains list of Catholic citizens of Galway City in 1794.
- Colville Scott, Thomas, *Connemara After the Famine, A Journal of the Martin Estate, 1853*, Lillyput Press, 1995.
- Conal Thomas, Br., *The Land for the People*, Annaghdown Heritage Society, 1999 covers aspects of the Land League and landlords of North Galway.
- Concannon, Kieran, *Inishbofin: Through Time and Tide*, 1993.
- Connolly, Michael, *They Change their Sky: The Irish in Maine, Orono*: University of Maine Press, 2004. Account of Irish emigration to Maine, especially from Connemara, in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century right up to 1950.

Conwell, John Joe, *Lickmolassy by the Shannon: a History of Gortnaumera & Surrounding Parishes*, 1998; *A Great Landlord during the Great Famine*, 2003.

Cunningham, Jack, *Galway's Own*, Galway, 1977.

Cunningham, John. *A Town Tormented by the Sea: Galway, 1790-1914*, Dublin, 2004.

Davis, Kay, *Oranmore in Days of Yore*, contains many old photographs and information on the people of Oranmore and district.

Devally, Kevin, ed. *Tiaquin National School and District*, 1998.

Duffy, Kevin, *Fifty Years behind the Counter*, Headford, 2001.

Egan, Mary et al Eds. *Catch a Flickering Light*, Árús Mhuire Community Nursing Unit, Tuam. An award-winning review of former days in County Galway by many contributors.

Egan, Patrick K., *The Parish of Ballinalsoe, its History from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*, 1994.

Faherty, Padhraic. *Barna – A History*, 2000.

Fahey, Jerome. *The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Kilmacduagh*, 1893 and reprint, 1986.

Fahy, Mary de Lourdes, Sr. *Kiltartan: Many Leaves one Root: A History of the Parish of Kiltartan*, 2004.

Farrell, Noel. *County Galway, Tuam, Family Roots: Exploring Family Origins in Tuam*, 2004; *Exploring Family Origins in Ballinasloe Town*, 1998.

Finnegan, Eileen, *A History of the Parish of Templetogether: and the town of Williamstown: from the Earliest Times to 1990*, 1990.

Flynn, John S., *Ballymacward – The Story of an East Galway Parish*, shows important land ownership in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century in Chapter 18.

Forde, Joseph, Cassidy, Christina, Manzor, Paul, Ryan, David, *The District of Loughrea*, Vol. 1 History, 1791-18; Vol. 2 Folklore 1860-1960. Published 2003. This huge work

contains chapters dealing with Loughrea estates and gentry, including Clanricarde land agitations and the famous Ward eviction.

Furey, Brenda. *Oranmore Maree a History of a Cutlural and Social Heritage*, 1991.

Gantz, Ida, *Signposts to Eyrecourt: Portrait of the Eyre Family Triumphant in the Cause of Liberty*, Bath, 1975. ISBN 0901571709.

Gilmore, Marty and Kilroy, Mattie, *The History of Ahascragh and Caltra*.

Glynn, Seán M., *Williamstown County Galway Historical Sketch and Records*, 1996.

***Exploring Family Origins in Ballinasloe Town by Noel Farrell (1998). includes publicans (1894), Slater's Directories (1894), Thom's Directories (1938), Electors List (1948/49) and map of Ballinasloe (1865)***

Glynn, Rose, *The Story of Aughnish*, 2002.

Greaney, James, *Dunmore*, 1984, notes Land Ownership from 1567 to 1879, as well as in its appendices Griffith's Valuation and Registry of Deeds Records.

Grey, Marguerite, McNamara, Marie, eds., *Gort Inse Guaire – A Journey through Time*, Gort Heritage Trust, 2000.

Gwynn, Denis, *Edward Martyn and the Irish Revival*, London, 1930.

Hardiman, James, *The History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway*, Dublin, 1820, (republished by Kennys Bookshops and Art Galleries, Galway, 1975). The definitive history of Galway City, it contains many references to the city's families as well as a concise account of the Tribal families.

Henry, William, *St. Clerans – The Tale of a Manor*, 1999; *Role of*

*Honour – The Mayors of Galway City 1485-2001*, Galway, 2002; *Galway and the Great War*, 2006, Mercier Press, Cork; *Forgotten Heroes – Galway Soldiers of the Great War 1914-1918*, Cork, 2007.

Higgins, Jim, *St. James' Church and Cemetery, Glenina Heights*, Galway, 1995.

Higgins, Jim and McHugh, Anna, *The White Canons – Abbeystown Cill-na-Manach 1260-1990*, Donaghpatrick/Kilcoona Community Council Heritage Society, 1990. Higgins, Jim and Heringklee, Susanne (ed), *Monuments of St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church, Galway*, FÁS, 1992. NLI Ir 9295 m 2.

Irish Countrywomen's Association, *Portrait of a Parish: Ballynakill, Connemara*, Tullycross Guild, 1985.

Jordan, Kieran, *Kiltullagh/Killimordaly as the Centuries Passed: A History from 1500-1900*, Kiltullagh/Killimordaly Historical Society, 2000.

Kavanagh, Mary, *Galway – Gaillimh: A Bibliography of the City and County*, 2000.

Kelly, Declan, *Images of Ireland – Ballinasloe from Garbally Park to the Fairgreen*.

Kearns, Dominic and Roche, Desmond, *Clanricarde Country*, Woodford Heritage Group, 1987.

Kilkerrin Heritage Group, *A Place of Genius and Gentility – Insights into our Past – Kilkerrin, Co. Galway*, 2006.

Kilroy, Patricia, *The Story of Connemara*, 1989.

Lackagh Parish History Committee, *The Parish of Lackagh, Turloughmore*, 1990.

Langan-Egan, Maureen, *Galway Women in the Nineteenth Century*, 1999.

Lally, Bernadette, *Print Culture in Loughrea 1850–1900*, Four Courts Press.

Lynch, Brian, *History of Castleblakney*, 2003.



MacLochlainn, T., *Ballinasloe Inniu agus Inné*, 1993; *The Parish of Laurencetown & Kiltormer*, 1981, NLI Ir 94124 m 5; *A Historical Survey of the Parish of Ahascra, Caltra and Castleblakeney*, 1979, NLI Ir 9141 p 79; *The Parish of Aughrim and Kilconnell*, 1980. NLI Ir 94124 m 4; *A Short History of the Parish of Killure, Fohenagh and Kilgerrill*, Galway, 1975; *A Fireside Story on the Parish of Creagh*.

MacSweeney, Micheál, *Galway Golf Club 1895-1995*, 1995.

Mannion, Marie, *Post Office Records - a Valuable Source for Family History*. Galway Roots Vol. V, 1998.

Mannion, Mary, *In a Lifetime – Reminisces of the People of Moylough, Co. Galway*, 2001.

Martyn, Adrian, J., *Na Tuathe Gaillimhe/The Tribes of Galway*.

McHale, Bernard, *Menlough Looking Back*.

McNamara, Marie, and Madden, Maura, *Beagh – A History and Heritage*, 1995, includes information on the O'Shaughnessy, Butler, Forster, and Prendergast (Lord Gort) families.

Melvin, Patrick, 'The Composition of the Galway Gentry' in *Clanricarde Country* published by the Woodford Heritage Group, 1987, provides a concise but comprehensive summary of major land occupiers in County Galway; also in *Galway History and Society*, Dublin, 1996.

Moran, Gerard, Gillespie, Raymond, *Galway History and Society*, Dublin, 1996.

Mulvey, Con, ed., *The Memorial Inscriptions and Related History of Kiltullagh, Killmoredaly and Esker Graveyards*, Kiltullagh Community Council, 1998.

Murray, James P., *Galway: A Medico Social History*, Kenny's Bookshop, Galway.

Ó Cearbhaill, Diarmuid, ed., 'Galway Merchants in the Outside World' by Louis M. Cullen in *Galway: Town and Gown 1484 – 1984*, Gill & Macmillan, 1984.

Ó Conghaile, Micheál, *Conamara agus Árainn 1880-1980*, notes,

‘Tiarnaí Talún’, (Landlords) such as the Blakes of Furbo, Robinsons in Carraroe, Thompsons of Aran, etc.

O’Connor, Gabriel, *A History of Galway County Council*, 1999 especially Appendices 2 and 3 for genealogical information.

O’Donnell, Brendan, *Galway a Maritime Tradition*, 2001, Galway, includes many names and families involved in boating along the Galway coastline.

O’Dowd, Peadar, *Down by the Claddagh*, 1993 (contains site map showing last families to inhabit Claddagh fishing village before its demolition c.1928); *In from the West – The McDonogh Dynasty*, 2002 (contains this family’s pedigree); *Galway in Old Photographs*, 2003, Gill and MacMillan, contains more information on Galway City inhabitants; *The History of County Galway*, 2004; *Galway Lawn Tennis Club – A History*, 2005 and *The Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora - An Illustrated History*, 2011.

O’Flaherty, Roderic, *A Chorographical Description of West or H-Iar Connaught*, written in 1684, and edited in 1846 by James Hardiman contains many important references to western families, including family trees.

O’Gorman, Tony, *A History of Fohenagh*. Contains information on land ownership with special reference to the Dillons of Clonbrock.

Ó Laoí, Padraic, *History of Castlegar Parish*, 1997; *Nora Barnacle – A portrait*, Galway, 1982

Ó Murchú, Daithí, *Tuam*, Tuam, 1970, contains information on Egan brehons.

O’Neill, T. P., *The Tribes and Other Galway Families*, 1984.

O’Regan, Carol, *Moylough a People’s Heritage*, 1993 and with Audrey Lacey, *Abbeyknockmoy, a Time to Remember*, 1996.

O’Regan, Finbarr, *Carnaun School, Athenry, 1891-1991*, 1991; *The Lamberts of Athenry*, 1999.

O’Sullivan, M.D., *Old Galway*, Heffer & Son, Cambridge, 1942 (Republished by Kennys Bookshop & Art Galleries, Galway,

1983). This important volume provides many references to Galway families up to 1658.

Pethica, James L., and Roy, James C., *To the Land of the Free from this Island of Slaves – Henry Stratford Persse's Letters from Galway to America 1821-1832*, 1998.

Rait, R. S., *The Story of an Irish Property*, Oxford, 1908 deals with the O'Shaughnessy family

Robinson, Tim, *Connemara, Part 1: Introduction and Gazetteer*, 1990. As well as topographical and historical descriptions of towns, villages and townlands, much useful information on families and individuals associated with them is also included; *Mementos of Mortality*, Folding Landscapes, 1991.

Rynne, Etienne, *Athenry: a Medieval Irish Town*, 1992, NLI Ir 941 p 132 (1)

Semple, Maurice, *Reflections on Lough Corrib*, Galway, 1974; *Some Galway Memories*, Galway 1969.

Smythe-Woods, Patrick, ed., *Clonfert and Kilmacduagh Wills*, (Index), 1977. Spellissy, Seán, *The History of Galway City & County*, Limerick, 1996.

Stanley, Fr. Cathal, *Castles & Demesnes – Gleanings from Kilconieran and Clostown*, 2000.

Tynagh and District Development Soc. Ltd., *Tynagh Millennium Review*.

Ward, Martin, ed., *History of Glinsk*, 2002.

Villiers-Tuthill, Kathleen, *History of Clifden, 1810-1860*, 1981 et al; *Beyond the Twelve Bens, A History of Clifden and District 1860-1923*, 1986 and 1990.

Woodford Heritage Group, *A Forgotten Campaign and Aspects of the Heritage of South-East Galway*, Shiel, Michael J., and Roche, Desmond, eds., 1986; also by the same group, *Clanricarde Country and the Land Campaign*, 1987.

Woodman, Kieran, *Tribes to Tigers, A History of the Galway Chamber of Commerce and Industry*, Galway, 2000, and *Safe*

*and Commodious – The Annals of the Galway Harbour Commissioners, 1830–1997, Galway, 2000.*

### **Directories/Maps**

*Dodd's Traveller's Director through Ireland, 1801*

*Galway Year Book and Directory*, various dates from 1902-7

*Griffith's Valuation, 1847-1864*, by Richard Griffith.

Lewis, Samuel, *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, 1837.

*Pigot's Provincial Directory of Ireland, 1824.*

*Slator's National Commercial Directory of Ireland*, various dates from 1846.

Thom, Alexander, *Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Diary, 1844 onwards*, also known as *Thom's Commercial Directory*.

*Taylor's and Skinner's Maps of Ireland, 1794* Tyner, *Tyner's Travellers Guide Through Ireland, 1794.* *Wilson's Postchaise Companion*, editions 1784, 1786 and 1803.

### **Journals/Annuals**

As mentioned in Chapter 14, much information on family history can be gleaned from articles published in journals and manuals, especially those published locally of which the following are examples:

#### ***Galway Roots – Clanna na Gaillimhe***

Journal of the Galway Family History Society, West, Ltd. (1993 - ) ISSN 07918526

***Glenamaddy Arts and Historical Society Journal.*** (1991- )

***Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society***, published 1900 to date. (ISSN 0332-415X) It is also available on CD ROM - full text of 55 volumes (1900 – 2003). A list of back issues is available from Mr. William Henry, 25 Monivea Park, Galway, Ireland on receipt of SAE.

**Journal of the Old Tuam Society** (1942 - ) ISSN 1649-6787

**Lorg, Journal of the Moycullen History Society.** (see [www.moycullen.net](http://www.moycullen.net))

**Loughrea Illustrated Journal:** Published monthly between 1857 and 1884. The 1881 editorial proudly proclaimed that the

journal circulated in the U.S., Canada, Australia and British Columbia and that it found its way into 'nearly every Galway and county family'.

***Loughrea Record:*** A Loughrea Literary & Historical Monthly.  
Editor, Norman Morgan. ISSN 0791-0908

***The Great Tuam Annual.*** Published by Tuam Lions Club.  
(1990-1994)

**Quarterly Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society.**

### **Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.) Publications**

Another genealogical source (a very important one in the County Galway context) is the range of publications dedicated to the Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.) which promotes the native sports of hurling and football (male), camogie (female). Club histories published in the county provide information on local families, including names and photographs of players and supporters (a special bonus to the family researcher). Examples include:

Annaghdown G.A.A. Club, *Annaghdown G.A.A. 1887-1989.*

Casserly, James, *The History of Liam Mellows Hurling Club 1933 – 2007*, 2007.

Cloonan, Jarlath, *Athenry G.A.A. Story – A Centenary History*, 1984.

Conwell, John Joe, *Hearts of Oak – The Rise to Glory of Portumna GAA*, 2008.

Fahy, Michael, *The History of the Kilconieran Hurling Club.*

Farrell, Cyril and Brehony, Martin, *The Right to Win.*

Fox, Frank, *Against all the Odds – A History of the Glenamaddy G.A.A. Club*, 2003.

Galway Hurling Board Millennium Project, *Galway Hurling Glory.*

Goode, Paddy, *The Kiltormer G.A.A. Story.*

Hughes, Michael, J., *Caherlistrane G.A.A.*, 1990.

Kilroy, Mattie, *Ahascragh Hurling/Caltra Football Centenary Publication*.

Laoi, Ó Padraic, *Annals of the G.A.A. in Galway*, Vol. 1, and Vol. 2., 1983.

Mahon, Jack, *Galway G.A.A. in Old Photographs*, 2002,

McCann, David, *For the Pride of the Parish – A history of Gaelic games in New Inn and Bullaun*, published by Sarsfield's GAA Club, 2003.

O'Brien, Paddy and Mick Sullivan, *Fr. Griffins – The First Forty Years*.

*South Galway G.A.A. Board 1913-1966*.

### **Useful internet sources**

The Web is now a rich source of information for the family tree compiler. As well as supplying information of a professional kind, many individual enquiries appear and can link families of the same name together after being separated by time and space. Some of the professional sites include:

Irish Manuscripts Commission is at [www.irishmanuscripts.ie](http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie)

The Society for Irish Latin American Studies centres mainly on Irish migration to Latin America and provides valuable reference sources including passenger lists of emigrants to Argentina, burial records and a list of 4,348 Irish settlers including descendants and can be sourced at <http://www.irlandeses.org>

Also [www.originsnetwork.com](http://www.originsnetwork.com) is useful for generating more information useful for Irish research especially ship passenger lists from 1890 with over 45,000 entries.

The National Archives of Ireland website which includes access to the 1901 and 1911 census returns can be sourced at [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

A Biographical Index of Irish Architects from 1720 – 1940 is on [www.iarc.ie/biographical/index.shtml](http://www.iarc.ie/biographical/index.shtml) [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) very useful for looking up information on *Griffith's Valuation* 1847 – 1864. Ask About Ireland is an initiative of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government through the Information Society Fund and The Heritage Council. Site design, the Digital Media Centre, DIT.[www.irishroots.ie](http://www.irishroots.ie) for information on buying back issues of *Irish Roots* magazines.[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) is an official web site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is the largest free-to-use genealogical data base in the world.

## Chapter 14 Useful Addresses

This chapter describes the major archives and sources which can be useful in Galway research. The relevant repositories of information in Ireland are mainly in Dublin, while some local sources, and copies of national sources, are in Galway. Most of the relevant material is in public collection, although some specialist sources also of relevance to particular professions may be in private hands and require permission for access.

### **National Repositories:**

#### ***General Register Office, (GRO)***

This is the central repository for birth, death and marriage records. Details of records and costs for copies, and access information can be gleaned from [www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie) The headquarters of the GRO is located at: Government Offices, Convent Road Roscommon. Tel: +353 (0) 90 6632900 LoCall: 1890 252076. It is also possible to conduct research at: Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2. The GRO office in Galway is in the Western Area Health Service Executive Superintendent Register's Office at 25 Newcastle Road, Galway City, 091-546277 which can provide certificates for known births, etc. However, for detailed research to be carried out by staff on the Galway books of records, you need to book in advance.

#### ***National Archives of Ireland (NAI), Bishop Street, Dublin 8.***

One of the major Irish source centres for genealogical research, it houses a vast collection of records generated by public bodies (censuses, wills, etc). It also provides a professional genealogical advisory service second to none. Tel. (01) 4072300 and [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

#### ***National Library of Ireland (NLI), Kildare Street, Dublin 2***

This is Ireland's main repository of the country's historical records and has a dedicated genealogical service section where,



for instance, the Name Index to *Griffith's Valuation* can be consulted. The library also contains a major collection, up to the year 1880, of microfilmed copies of most surviving Catholic Church registers, while a comprehensive listing of Church of Ireland registers are available in the Reading and Genealogy Rooms. Note that the NLI does not provide copies of, or transcriptions from, registers and that original as well as post-1880 registers are generally in the custody of the local Parish Priest. Contact with the NLI can be made at Tel. (01) 6618811 and [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) Note also, that the Office of the Chief Herald is a branch of the library. The website <http://sources.nli.ie/> should be checked for places and names of interest.

***Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin 1.***

The Registry of Deeds holds deeds dating back to 1708. In the same building is the Land Registry, which has land records since 1892. It can be contacted at (01) 6707500, while its website, [www.landregistry.ie](http://www.landregistry.ie) is a good introduction to the indexation and documentation on hand.

***Valuation Office, Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1.***

The Valuation Office holds the valuation records of all Irish properties from 1846 as well as valuation maps from c. 1850. It can be contacted at (01) 8171000 and its website [www.valoff.ie](http://www.valoff.ie) contains all the necessary information for the family history researcher to learn the various services on offer.

**Local Repositories and Organisations:**

***Defence Force Headquarters.***

Military records, up to the 1940s, are available for next-of-kin. Tel. 353 1 8046457 or [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

***Irish Family History Foundation.*** This foundation runs the Irish Genealogical Project which has set up a nationwide network of genealogical centres, each of which has indexed local records and provides genealogical research services. Their website [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) is a central sign-posting service for records in all of these centres. The two centres in County Galway are:

**01. Galway Family History Society West Ltd.** operates from St. Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla, Galway City. Tel. 353 (0) 91 860464 – Fax 353 (0) 91 860432 - e-mail: galwayfhswest@eircom.net and opening hours by appointment only on Monday-Thursday 10am - 3.30pm, Fridays, 10am-1pm.

**02. East Galway Family History Society** is based at Woodford Heritage Centre, Woodford, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Tel. 353 (0) 90 9749309 – Fax 353 (0) 90 9749546 – e-mail: galwayroots@eircom.net - website: www.galwayroots.com Open all year from 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4.30pm Monday-Thursday, and 9am - 1pm, Friday.”

***Family History Centre (Mormons)***

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. in Salt Lake City headquarters and houses the largest library of genealogical information in the world. Mormon churches usually have a family history section and welcome you to photocopy relevant microfilm data. In the Irish (Dublin) context they can be contacted at (01) 8306684 or www.familyresearch.org.

***Galway County Council Archives and Galway County Libraries***

Island House, Cathedral Square,

Galway City

Tel: (091) 562471, Fax: (091) 565039

***Galway Family History Society West Ltd.***

This society operates from St. Joseph's Community Centre, Shantalla, Galway City. Tel. 353 (0) 91 860464 – Fax 353 (0) 91 860432 - e-mail: galwaywestroots@eircom.net and opening hours by appointment only on Monday-Thursday 10am - 3.30pm, Fridays, 10am-1pm.

***Garda Archives (Police)***

Contains much data, including documents and photographs, on police history going back before the establishing of the Irish Garda in 1922. Tel. (01) 6669998 and www.garda.ie/angarda/museum.html

***James Hardiman Library***

*Resource Guide for Local Studies*, Leabharlann James Hardiman Library, and at [http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/special\\_collections/index.html](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/resources/special_collections/index.html)

## **Societies and Sources:**

### ***Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland.***

The Republic of Ireland's only regulated body of genealogists, with twenty accredited professionals. They can be contacted at + 353 1 6030200 or [www.apgi.ie](http://www.apgi.ie)

### ***East Galway Family History Society***

Based at Woodford Heritage Centre, Woodford, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Tel. 353 (0) 90 9749309 – Fax 353 (0) 90 9749546 – e-mail: [galwayroots@eircom.net](mailto:galwayroots@eircom.net) or [galwayroots@gmail.com](mailto:galwayroots@gmail.com) - website: [www.galwayroots.com](http://www.galwayroots.com) Opening hours all year round are 9.30am - 1pm, 2pm - 4.30pm Monday-Thursday, and 9.30am - 1pm, Friday.

### ***Genealogical Society of Ireland.***

Promotes genealogy in Ireland and publishes the Genealogical Society of Ireland journal and can be contacted at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie). Its staff includes a genealogical advisory service and can be contacted at: Tel. (01) 6618811.

### ***Irish Family History Society.***

Another genealogical promotional body, it also publishes an annual journal and newssheets. It can be contacted at [www.homepage.eircom.net/~ifhs/](http://www.homepage.eircom.net/~ifhs/)

### ***Irish Roots Magazine.***

A quarterly magazine dedicated to Irish genealogy (not to be confused with the 'Roots' magazine of the Galway Family History Society West Ltd. mentioned above).

Tel. 087-9427815 and [www.irishrootsmagazine.com](http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com)

### ***Western Family History Association***

Composed mainly of West of Ireland people interested in family and/or local history. It hosts lectures and workshops.

email: [wfha-galway@ireland.com](mailto:wfha-galway@ireland.com)

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